PANDOSTO
The Triumph
of Time.

VVHEREIN IS DISCOVERED by a pleaſant Hiſtorie, that although by the meanes of ſiniſter fortune Truth may be concealed, yet by Time in ſpite of fortune it is moſt manifeſtly reuealed.

Pleaſant for age to auoyd drovvſie thoughts, profitable for youth to eſchue other vvanton paſtimes, and bringing to both a deſired content.

Temporis filia veritas.

By Robert Greene Maiſter of Artes *in Cambridge.*

Omne tulit punctum qui miſcuit vtile dulci.

Imprinted at London for I. B. dwelling at the ſigne of the Bible, neare vnto the North doore of Paules.

1592.

TO THE GENTLEMEN READERS HEALTH.

THe paultring Poet APHRANIVS being blamed for troubling the Emperour TRAIAN with ſo many doting Poemes: aduentured notwithſtāding, ſtill to preſent him with rude & homly verſes, excuſing him ſelfe with the curteſie of the Emperor, which did as friendly accept, as he fondly offerd. So Gentlemen, if any condemne my rathneſſe for troubling your eares with ſo many vnlearned Pāphlets: I will ſtraight ſhroud my ſelfe vnder the ſhadow of your curteſis, and with APHRANIVS lay the blame on you aſwel for friendly reading them, as on my ſelfe for fondly penning them: Hoping though fond curious, or rather curriſh backebiters breath out ſlaunderous ſpeeches: yet the courteous Readers (whom I feare to offend) will requite my trauell, at the leaſt with ſilence: and in this hope I reſt: wiſhing you health and happineſſe.

ROBERT GREENE.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE GEORGE CLIFford Earle of Cumberland, Robert Greene wiſheth increaſe of honor and vertue.

THE Raſcians (right honorable) when by long gazing againſt the Sunne, they become halfe blind, recouer their ſights by looking on the blacke Loade ſtone. Vnicornes being glutted with brouſing on rootes of Licquoris, ſharpen their ſtomackes with cruſhing bitter graſſe.

Alexander vouchſafed as well to ſmile at the crooked picture of Vulcan, as to wonder at the curious counterfeite of Venus. The mind is ſomtimes delighted as much with ſmal trifles as with ſumptuous triumphs, & as well pleaſed with hearing of Pans homly fancies, as of Hercules renowmed labours. Sillie Baucis could not ſerue Iupiter in a ſiluer plate, but in a wodden diſh. All that honour Eſculapius, decke not his ſhrine with Iewels. Apollo giues Oracles as well to the poore man for his mite, as to the rich man for his treaſure. The ſtone Echites is not ſo much liked for the colour, as for vertue: and gifts are not to be meaſured by the worth, but by the wil. *Miſon* that vnskilfull Painter of Greece, aduentured to giue vnto *Darius* the ſhield of Pallas, ſo roughly ſhadowed, as he ſmiled more at the follie of the man, then at the imperfection of his arte. So I preſent vnto your honour the Triumph of time, ſo rudely finiſhed, as I feare your honour will rather frowne at my impudencie. then laugh at my ignorancie: But I hope my willing minde ſhall excuſe my ſlender skill, and your honours curteſie ſhadow my raſhneſſe.

They which feare the biting of vipers do carie in their hãds the plumes of a Phœnix. Phydias drewe Vulcan ſitting in a chaire of Iuorie. Cæſars Crow durſt neuer cry, *Aue*, but when ſhe was pearked on the Capitoll. And I ſeeke to ſhrowd this imperfect Pamphlet vnder your honours patronage, doubting the dint of ſuch inuenomed vipers, as ſeeke with their ſlaunderous reproches to carpe at all, being oftentimes, moſt vnlearned of all: and aſſure my ſelfe, that your honours renowmed valure, and vertuous diſpoſition ſhall be a ſufficient defence to protect me from the poiſoned tongues of ſuch ſcorning Sycophants, hoping that as Iupiter vouchſafed to lodge in Philemons thatched cottage: and Philip of Macedon, to take a bunch of grapes of a countrey peſant: ſo I hope your honour, meaſuring my worke by my will, & waighing more the mind then the matter, will when you haue caſt a glaunce at this toy, with Minerua, vnder your golden Target couer a deformed Owle. And in this hope I reſt, wiſhing vnto you, and the vertuous Counteſſe your wife: ſuch happie ſucceſſe as your honours can deſire, or I imagine.

Your Lordſhips moſt dutifully to commaund: Robert Greene.

THE HISTORIE OF DORASTVS AND FAWNIA.

AMong all the passions wherewith humane mindes are perplexed, there is none that so galleth with restlesse despight as ỹ infectious soare of Iealousie: for all other griefs are either to be appeased with sensible perswasions, to be cured with wholsome counsell, to be relieued in want, or by tract of time to be worne out (Iealousie onely excepted) which is sawsed with suspicious doubtes, & pinching mistrust, that who so seekes by friendly counsaile to rase out this hellish passion, it forthwith suspecteth that he geueth this aduise to couer his owne guiltinesse. Yea, who so is payned with this restlesse torment doubteth all, distrusteth himselfe, is alwayes frosen with feare, & fired with suspitiõ, hauing that wherein cõsisteth all his ioy, to be the bræder of his miserie. Yea, it is such a heauy enemy to that holy estate of matrimony, sowing betwéene the married couples such deadly sædes of secret hatred, as loue being once rased out by spightfull distrust, there oft ensueth bloudy reuenge, as this ensuing Historie manifestly prooueth: wherein Pandosto (furiously incensed by causelesse Iealousie) procured the death of his most louing & loyall wife, and his owne endlesse sorrow and miserie.

IN the countrey of Bohemia there raigned a king callad Pãdosto, whose fortunate successe in warres against his foes, & bountifull curtesie towards his friends in peace, made him to be greatly feared & loued of all mẽ. This Pandosto had to wife a Lady called Bellaria, by birth royall, learned by educatiõ, faire by nature, by vertues famous, so that it was hard to iudge whether her beauty, fortune, or vertue, wãne ỹ greatest

commendations. Theſe two linked together in perfect loue, led their liues with ſuch fortunate cõtent, that their ſubiectes greatly reioyced to ſée their quiet diſpoſitiõ. They had not bin married lõg, but fortune (willing to increaſe their happines) lent them a ſonne, ſo adorned with the gifts of nature, as the perfection of the child greatly augmented the loue of the parents, and the ioy of their commons: in ſo much that the Bohemians, to ſhew their inward ioyes by outward actions, made bonefires & triumphes throughout all the kingdome, appointing iuſtes and turneyes for the honor of their young Prince: whether reſorted not only his Nobles, but alſo diuers kings & princes which were his neighbours, willing to ſhew their friendſhip they ought to Pandoſto, & to win fame & glory by their proweſſe & valour. Pandoſto, whoſe mind was fraught with princely liberalitie, entertained ỹ kings, Princes, & noble men with ſuch ſubmiſſe curteſie, & magnificall bountie, ỹ they all ſaw how willing he was to gratifie their good wils, making a generall feaſt for his ſubiectes, which continued by the ſpace of 20. dayes: all which time ỹ iuſtes & turneys were kept to the great cõtent both of the Lords & Ladies there preſent. This ſolẽne triumph being once ended, the aſſembly taking their leaue of Pandoſto & Bellaria: the young ſonne (who was called Garinter) was nurſed vp in the houſe, to the great ioy & content of the parents. Fortune enuious of ſuch happy ſucceſſe, willing to ſhew ſome ſigne of her incõſtancie, turned her wheele, & darkned their bright ſunne of proſperitie, with the miſty cloudes of miſhap & miſerie. For it ſo happened that Egiſtus king of Sycilia, who in his youth had bene brought vp with Pandoſto, deſirous to ſhew that neither tract of time, nor diſtance of place could diminiſh their former friendſhip, prouided a naue of ſhips, and ſayled into Bohemia to viſite his old friend and companion, who hearing of his arriuall, went himſelfe in perſon, & his wife Bellaria, accõpanied with a great traine of Lordes & Ladies, to mẽte Egiſtus: and eſpying him, alighted frõ his horſe, embraced him very louingly proteſting that nothing in the world could haue happened more acceptable to him then his comming, wiſhing his wife to welcome his old friend and acquaintance who (to ſhew how ſhe liked

him

him whom her huſband loued) intertayned him with ſuch familiar curteſie, as Egiſtus perceiued himſelfe to be very well welcome. After they had thus ſaluted & embraced ech other, they mounted againe on horſebacke, & rode toward the Citie, deuiſing and recounting, how being children they had paſſed their youth in friendly paſtimes: where, by the meanes of the Citizens, Egiſtus was receiued with triumphes & ſhowes in ſuch ſort, that he maruelled how on ſo ſmall a warning they could make ſuch preparation. Paſſing the ſtrætes thus with ſuch rare ſights, they rode on to the Pallace, where Pandoſto entertained Egiſtus & his Sycilians with ſuch banqueting and ſumptuous cheare, ſo royally, as they all had cauſe to cõmend his Princely liberalitie, yea, the very baſeſt ſlaue that was knowne to come frõ Sycilia was vſed with ſuch curteſie, that Egiſtus might eaſily perceiue how both he and his were honored for his friẽds ſake. Bellaria (who in her time was ỹ flower of curteſie) willing to ſhew how vnfainedly ſhe loued her huſband by his friends intertainemẽt, vſed him likewiſe ſo familiarly, that her countenance bewrayed how her mind was affected towards him: oftentimes cõming her ſelfe into his bed chãber, to ſee ỹ nothing ſhould be amiſſe to miſlike him. This honeſt familiaritie increaſed dayly more & more betwixt thẽ: for Bellaria noting in Egiſtus a Princely & bountifull minde, adorned with ſundry and excellent qualities, and Egiſtus finding in her a vertuous & curteous diſpoſitiõ, there grew ſuch a ſecret vniting of their affections, that the one could not well be without the cõpany of the other: in ſo much that whẽ Pãdoſto was buſied with ſuch vrgent affaires, that he could not be preſent with his friend Egiſtus, Bellaria would walke with him into the garden, where they two in priuat & pleaſant deuiſes would paſſe away ỹ time to both their cõtents. This cuſtome ſtill cõtinuing betwixt them, a certaine melãcholy paſſion entring the minde of Pandoſto, draue him into ſundry & doubtfull thoughts. Firſt, he called to minde the beauty of his wife Bellaria, the comelines & brauerie of his friend Egiſtus, thinking that loue was aboue all lawes, and therefore to be ſtayed with no law: that it was hard to put fire & flare together without burning: that their open pleaſures might bræde

his ſecret diſpleaſures. He conſidereth with himſelfe that Egiſtus was a mã, & muſt nedes loue: that his wife was a womã, & therfore ſubiect vnto loue, & that where fancie forced, friendſhip was of no force. Theſe & ſuch like doubtful thoughts a lõg time ſmothering in his ſtomacke, begã at laſt to kindle in his minde a ſecret miſtruſt, which increaſed by ſuſpitiõ, grew at laſt to a flaming ielouſie, that ſo tormẽted him as he could take no reſt. He then began to meaſure all their actions, & to miſcõſtrue of their two priuate familiaritie, iudging that it was not for honeſt affectiõ, but for diſordinate fancy, ſo that he begã to watch them more narrowly, to ſee if he could get any true or certaine proofe to confirme his doubtfull ſuſpitiõ. While thus he noted their lookes & geſtures, & ſuſpected their thoughts and meanings, they two ſely ſoules who doubted nothing of this his trecherous intent, frequented daily each others company, which draue him into ſuch a franticke paſſion, that he begã to beare a ſecret hate to Egiſtus, & a lowring coũtenance to Bellaria, who marueiling at ſuch vnaccuſtomed frowns, began to caſt beyõd ỹ Mone, & to enter into a thouſãd ſundry thoughts, which way ſhe ſhould offend her huſbãd: but finding in her ſelf a cleare cõſcience, ceaſſed to muſe, vntil ſuch time as ſhe might find fit opportunie to demaund the cauſe of his dumps. In the meane time Pandoſtoes mind was ſo far charged with ielouſie, that he did no lõger doubt, but was aſſured (as he thought) that his friend Egiſtus had entred a wrõg point in his tables, & ſo had played him falſe play: whercupõ deſirous to reuẽge ſo great an iniury, he thought beſt to diſſemble ỹ grudge with a faire & friendly countenance: & ſo vnder the ſhape of a friend, to ſhew him the tricke of a foe. Deuiſing with himſelfe a long time how he might beſt put away Egiſtus without ſuſpitiõ of trecherous murder, he cõcluded at laſt to poiſon him, which opinion pleaſing his humour, he became reſolute in his determinatiõ, & the better to bring ỹ matter to paſſe he called vnto him his cupbearer, with whõ in ſecret he breake the matter: promiſing to him for ỹ performãce therof, to geue him a 1000. crownes of yearely reuenues: his cupbearer either being of a good conſciẽce, or willing for faſhiõ ſake, to deny ſuch a bloudy requeſt, began with great reaſons to perſwade Pandoſto

from

from his determinate miſchief: ſhewing him what an offence murther was to ỹ Gods: how ſuch vnnaturall actiõs did more diſpleaſe the heauens, thã men: & that cauſeles crueltie did ſeldome or neuer eſcape without reuẽge: he layd before his face, that Egiſtus was his friend, a king, & one ỹ was come into his kingdome, to confirme a league of perpetuall amitie betwirt them, that he had & did ſhew him a moſt friendly coũtenaunce, how Egiſtus was not onely honored of his owne people by obedience, but alſo loued of the Bohemiãs for his curteſie. And that if now he ſhould without any iuſt or manifeſt cauſe, poyſon him, it would not only be a great diſhonor to his Maieſty, & a meanes to ſow perpetuall enmitie betwæne the Sycilians & the Bohemians, but alſo his owne ſubiectes would repine at ſuch trecherous crueltie. Theſe & ſuch like perſwaſiõs of Franiõ (for ſo was his cupbearer called) could no whit preuaile to diſſwade him frõ his deuliſh enterprize, but remaining reſolute in his determination, his furie ſo fired with rage, as it could not be appeaſed with reaſon: he begã with bitter taunts to take vp his man, & to lay before him two baytes: prefermẽt, & death: ſaying that if he would poyſon Egiſtus, he ſhould aduaunce him to high dignities: if he refuſed to do it of an obſtinate minde, no torture ſhould be to great to requite his diſobediẽce. Franiõ ſeeing ỹ to perſwade Pandoſto any more, was but to ſtriue againſt the ſtreame: cõſented as ſone as opportunity would giue him leaue to diſpatch Egiſtus, wherewith Pãdoſto remained ſomwhat ſatiſfied, hoping that now he ſhould be fully reuẽged of ſuch miſtrulled iniuries, intẽding alſo aſſone as Egiſtus was dead, to giue his wife a ſop of the ſame ſawce, & ſo be rid of thoſe which were ỹ cauſe of his reſtles ſorrow. While thus he liued in this hope, Franiõ bẽing ſecret in his chãber, begau to meditate with himſelfe in theſe termes.

AỸ Franiõ, treaſon is loued of many, but the traitor hated of all: vniuſt offences may for a time eſcape without danger, but neuer without reuenge, thou art ſeruant to a king, & muſt obey at cõmaund: yet Franion, againſt law & conſcience, it is not good to reſiſt a tyrãt with armes, nor to pleaſe an vniuſt king with obedience. What ſhalt thou do? Folly refuſed

gold, & frenſie preferment, wiſedome ſeeketh after dignitie, & counſel looketh for gayne. Egiſtus is a ſtranger, to thee, & Pandoſto thy ſoueraigne: thou haſt little cauſe to reſpect the one, & oughteſt to haue great care to obey the other. Thinke this Franion, that a pound of gold is worth a tunne of lead, great gifts are little Gods, & preferment to a meane mã, is a whetſtone to courage: there is nothing ſweeter thã promotion, nor lighter thẽ report: care not then though moſt coũt thee a traytor, ſo all cal thee rich. Dignitie (Franion) aduaũceth thy poſteritie, & euill report can hurt but thy ſelfe. Know this, where Eagles build, Faulcons may pray: were Lyons haunt, Foxes may ſteale. Kings are knowen to commaunde, ſeruaunts are blameleſſe to cõſent: feare not thou thẽ to lift at Egiſtus. Pandoſto ſhall beare the burthen. Yea but Franion, conſcience is a worme that euer biteth, but neuer ceaſeth: ẏ which is rubbed with the ſtone Galactites will neuer be hot. Fleſh dipped in the ſea Ægeum, will neuer be ſweete: the hearbe Tragion being once bit with an Aſpis neuer groweth, and conſcience once ſtayned with innocent bloud, is alwayes tyed to a guiltie remorſe. Preferre thy content before riches, and a cleare mind before dignitie: ſo being poore thou ſhalt haue rich peace, or els rich, thou ſhalt enioy diſquiet.

FRanion hauing muttered out theſe or ſuch like words, ſeeing either he muſt dye with a cleare minde, or liue with a ſpotted conſcience: he was ſo combered with diuers cogitatiõs ẏ he could take no reſt, vntill at laſt he determined to breake the matter to Egiſtus, but fearing that the king ſhould either ſuſpect or heare of ſuch matters, he concealed the deuiſe till opportunitie would permit him to reueale it. Lingring thus in doubtfull feare, in an euening he went to Egi-ſtus lodging, & deſirous to breake with him of certaine affaires that touched the king, after all were commaũded out of the chamber: Franion made manifeſt ẏ whole conſpiracie, which Pandoſto had deuiſed againſt him, deſiring Egiſtus not to accõpt him a traytor for bewraying his maiſters counſell, but to thinke that he did it for cõſcience, hoping that although his maiſter inflamed with rage, or incenſed by ſome ſiniſter reportes or ſlaũderous

ſpeaches,

ſpeaches, had imagined ſuch cauſeleſſe miſchief: yet whē time ſhould paciſie his anger, & trie thoſe talebearers but flattering Parаſites, then he would count him as a faithfull ſeruaunt, that with ſuch care had kept his maiſters credit. Egiſtus had not fully heard Franiō tell forth his tale, but a quaking feare poſſeſſed all his limmes, thinking that there was ſome treaſon wrought, & that Franion did but ſhadow his craft with theſe falſe colours: wherefore he began to ware in choler, and ſayd that he doubted not Pādoſto, ſith he was his friend, and there had neuer as yet bene any breach of amitie: he had not ſought to inuade his lands, to cōſpire with his enemies, to diſſwade his ſubiectes from their allegeance: but in word and thought he reſted his at all times: he knew not therfore any cauſe that ſhould moue Pandoſto to ſeeke his death, but ſuſpected it to be a compacted knauery of the Bohemians, to bring the king and him at oddes. Franion ſtaying him in the midſt of his talke, told him that to dally with Princes was with the ſwannes to ſing againſt their death, and that if the Bohemians had intended any ſuch ſecret miſchief, it might haue bene better brought to paſſe then by reuealing the conſpiracie: therefore his Maieſtie did ill to miſconſtrue of his good meaning, ſith his intent was to hinder treaſon, not to become a traytor and to confirme his premiſes, if it pleaſe his Maieſtie to flee into Sycilia for the ſafegard of his life, he would go with him: and if then he found not ſuch a practiſe to be pretended, let his imagined trecherie be repayed with moſt monſtrous torments. Egiſtus hearing the ſolemne proteſtation of Franion: began to conſider, that in loue and kingdomes, neither faith, nor law is to be reſpected: doubting that Pandoſto thought by his death to deſtroy his men, and with ſpeedy warre to inuade Sycilia: theſe and ſuch doubtes throughly weighed, he gaue great thankes to Franion, promiſing if he might with life returne to Syracuſa, that he would create him a Duke in Sycilia: crauing his counſell how he might eſcape out of the countrey. Franion, who hauing ſome ſmall ſkill in Nauigation, was well acquainted with the Portes and Hauens, and knew euery daunger in the Sea, ioyning in counſell with the Maiſter of Egiſtus Nauie, rigged all their

ſhips, & ſetting them a floate let them lye at anker, to be in the more readineſſe when time & wind ſhould ſerue. Fortune although blind, yet by chance fauoring this iuſt cauſe, ſent them within 6. dayes a good gale of wind, which Franion ſeeing fit for their purpoſe, to put Pãdaſto out of ſuſpitiõ, ỹ night before they ſhould ſaile, he went to him & promiſed, that the nert day he would put ỹ deuiſe in practiſe, for he had got ſuch a forcible poyſon as ỹ very ſmell thereof ſhould procure ſodaine death. Pandaſto was ioyfull to heare this good newes & thought euery houre a day till he might be glutted with bloudy reuenge, but his ſuite had but ill ſucceſſe: for Egiſtus fearing ỹ delay might breede daunger, & willing that the graſſe ſhould not be cut from vnder his feete, taking bagge & baggage with ỹ helpe of Franion, conueyed himſelf & his men out of a poſterne gate of the Citie ſo ſecretly, & ſpeedely, that without any ſuſpition they got to the ſea ſhoare, where, with many a bitter curſe taking their leaue of Bohemia, they wẽt aboord, weighing their Ancres: and hoyſting ſayle, they paſſed as faſt as winde & ſea would permit towardes Sycilia; Egiſtus being a ioyfull man, ỹ he had ſafely paſt ſuch trecherous perils. But as they were quietly flouting on the ſea, ſo Pandoſto & his Citizens were in an vprore: for ſeeing that the Sycilians without taking their leaue were fled away by night, the Bohemians feared ſome treaſon, & the king thought that without queſtion his ſuſpition was true, ſeeing his cupbearer had bewrayed the ſumme of his ſecret pretence: whereupon he began to imagine, that Franiõ and his wife Bellaria had conſpired with Egiſtus, and that the feruent affection ſhe bare him, was the onely meanes of his ſecret departure, in ſo much that incẽſed with rage, he cõmaũded that his wife ſhould be carried to ſtraight priſon, vntill they heard further of his pleaſure. The guarde vnwilling to lay their hands on ſuch a vertuous Princeſſe, and yet fearing the kings furie, went very ſorrowfully to fulfill their charge, cõming to the Quẽnes lodging, they found her playing with her young ſonne Garinter, vnto whom with teares doing the meſſage: Bellaria aſtoniſhed at ſuch a hard cẽſure, and finding her cleare conſcience a ſure aduocate to pleade in her caſe, went to the priſon moſt willingly: where with ſighs & teares,

ſhe

ſhe paſt away the time till ſhe might come to her triall.

But Pandoſto, whoſe reaſon was ſuppreſſed with rage, & whoſe vnbridled folly was incenſed with furie: ſeeing Franion had bewrayed his ſecrets, and that Egiſtus might wel be rayled on, but not reuenged: determined to wreake all his wrath on poore Bellaria, he therfore cauſed a generall Proclamation to be made through all his Realme, that the Quéene & Egiſtus had by the helpe of Franion not only committed moſt inceſtuous adulterie, but alſo had conſpired the Kings death: Wherupon the Traitor Franion was fled away with Egiſtus, and Bellaria was moſt iuſtly impriſoned. This Proclamation being once blazed through the countrey, although the vertuous diſpoſition of the Quéene did halfe diſcredit the contents: yet the ſodaine and ſpædie paſſage of Egiſtus, & the ſecret departure of Franion induced them (the circumſtances throughly conſidered) to thinke that both the Proclamation was true, & the King greatly iniured: yet they pitied her caſe, as ſorowful that ſo good a Ladie ſhould be croſſed with ſuch aduerſe Fortune. But the King, whoſe reſtleſſe rage would admit no pity, thought that although he might ſufficiently requite his wiues falſhod with the bitter plague of pinching penurie, yet his minde ſhould neuer be glutted with reuenge, till he might haue fit time and opportunitie to repay the treacherie Egiſtus with a fatall iniurie. But a curſt Cow hath oft times ſhort hornes, and a willing mind, but a weake arme: for Pandoſto although he felt, that reuenge was a ſpurre to warre, & that enuie alwayes proffereth ſtæle, yet he ſaw, that Egiſtus was not onely of great puiſſance, and proweſſe to withſtand him, but had alſo many Kings of his alliance to ayde him, if néede ſhould ſerue: for he married to the Emperous daughter of Ruſſia. Theſe and ſuch like conſiderations ſomething daunted Pandoſto his courage, ſo, that he was content rather to put vp a manifeſt iniurie with peace, than hunt after reuenge with diſhonor & loſſe: determining ſince Egiſtus had eſcaped ſcotfrée, ỹ Bellaria ſhould pay for all at an vnreaſonable price.

Remaining thus reſolute in this determination, Bellaria continuing ſtill in priſon, & hearing the contents of the Proclamation, knowing that her mind was neuer touched with

ſuch affection, nor that Egiſtus had euer offered her ſuch diſcurteſie, would gladly haue come to her anſwer, that both ſhe might haue knowne her vniuſt accuſers, and cleared her ſelfe of that guiltleſſe crime.

But Pandoſto was ſo enflamed with rage, & infected with Iealouſie as he would not vouchſafe to heare her nor admit any iuſt excuſe, ſo that ſhe was faine to make a vertue of her néede, and with patience to beare theſe heauie iniuries. As thus ſhe lay croſſed with calamities (a great cauſe to increaſe her griefe) ſhe found her ſelfe quicke with child: which aſſoone as ſhe felt ſtir in her bodie, ſhe burſt forth into bitter teares, exclaiming againſt fortune in theſe tearmes.

ALas Bellaria, how infortunate art thou becauſe fortunat, better hadſt thou bene borne a begger than a Prince: ſo ſhouldeſt thou haue bridled Fortune with want, where now ſhe ſporteth her ſelfe with thy plentie. Ah happy life where poore thoughts, and meane deſires liue in ſecure content, not fearing Fortune becauſe to low. For fortune, thou ſeeſt now Bellaria, that care is a companiõ to honor, not to pouertie, that high Cæders are frushed with tempeſts, when low ſhrubs are not toucht with the wind: precious Diamonds are cut with the file, when deſpiſed peables lie ſafe in the ſand: Delphos is ſought to by Princes, not beggers: & Fortunes altars ſmoke with Kings preſents, not with poore mens gifts. Happy are ſuch Bellaria, that curſe Fortune for contempt, not feare, and may wiſh they were, not ſorrow they haue bene. Thou art a Princeſſe, Bellaria, and yet a priſoner, borne to the one by diſcent, aſſigned to the other by deſpite, accuſed without cauſe, & therfore oughteſt to die without care: for patience is a ſhield againſt Fortune, and a guiltleſſe mind yéeldeth not to ſorow. Ah, but Infamie galleth vnto death, & liueth after death: Report is plumed with Times feathers, and Enuie oftentimes ſoundeth Fames trumpet: thy ſuſpected adulterie ſhall fly in the aire, and thy knowne vertues ſhall ly hid in the earth: one Moale ſtayneth a whole face, and what is once ſpotted with Infamy can hardly be worne out with time. Die then Bellaria, Bellaria die: for if the Gods ſhould ſay thou art guiltleſſe,

yet

yet enuie would heare the Gods, but neuer beléeue the Gods. Ah hapleſſe wretch, ceaſe theſe tearmes: deſperat thoughts are fit for them that feare ſhame, not for ſuch as hope for credite. Pandoſto hath darkned thy fame, but ſhal neuer diſcredit thy vertues. Suſpition may enter a falſe action, but proofe ſhall neuer put in his plea: care not then for enuie, ſith report hath a bliſter on her tongue: & let ſorrow bite them which offend, not touch thée that are faultleſſe. But alas poore ſoule, howe canſt thou but ſorrow? Thou art with child, and by him that in ſtéed of kind pitie pincheth thée in cold priſon. And with that ſuch gaſping ſighes ſo ſtopped her breath, that ſhe could not vtter any mo words, but wringing her hands, and guſhing forth ſtreames of teares, ſhe paſſed away the time with bitter complaints.

THe Jaylor pitying theſe her heauy paſſiõs, thinking that if the king knew ſhe were with child, he would ſom'what appeaſe his furie, & releaſe her frõ priſon, went in all haſt, and certified Pandoſto what the effect of Bellarias complaint was: who no ſooner heard the Jaylour ſay ſhe was with child, but as one poſſeſſed with a phrenſie, he roſe vp in a rage, ſwearing ỹ ſhe and the baſtard brat ſhe was withal, ſhould dy, if the gods thẽſelues ſaid no: thinking aſſuredly by computation of time, that Egiſtus, & not he, was father to the child. This ſuſpitious thought galled a freſh this halfe healed ſore, in ſo much as he could take no reſt, vntil he might mitigate his choler wt a iuſt reuenge, which happened preſently after. For Bellaria was brought to bed of a faire & beautiful daughter, which no ſooner Pandoſto heard, but he determined that both Bellaria and the yong infant ſhould be burnt with fire. His Nobles hearing of the Kings cruel ſentence, ſought by perſwaſions to diuert him frõ this bloody determination: laying before his face the innocencie of the child, & the vertuous diſpoſition of his wife, how ſhe had continually loued and honored him ſo tenderly', that without due proofe he could not, nor ought not to appeach her of that crime. And if ſhe had faulted, yet it were more honorable to pardon with mercy, then to puniſh with extremity, & more kingly, to be commended of pity, then accuſed of rigor. And as

for the child, if he ſhould puniſh it for the mothers offence, it were to ſtriue againſt nature and iuſtice: and that vnnaturall actions do more offend the Gods then men: how cauſeleſſe crueltie, nor innocent bloud neuer ſcapes without reuenge. Theſe and ſuch like reaſons could not appeaſe his rage, but he reſted reſolute in this, that Bellaria being an adultereſſe, the child was a baſtard, and he would not ſuffer that ſuch an infamous brat ſhould call him father. Yet at laſt (ſeeing his noble men were importunate vpon him) he was content to ſpare the childs life, and yet to put it to a worſer death. For he found out this deuiſe, that ſeeing (as he thought) it came by Fortune, ſo he would commit it to the charge of Fortune, and therfore he cauſed a litle cock-boate to be prouided, wherein he meant to put the babe, and then ſend it to the mercie of the ſeas, and the deſtinies. From this, his Peeres in no wiſe could perſuade him, but ỹ he ſent preſenty two of his Gard to fetch the child, who being come to the priſon, & with weeping teares recounting their maiſters meſſage: Bellaria no ſoner heard the rigorous reſolution of her mercileſſe huſband, but ſhe fell downe in a ſound, ſo ỹ all thought ſhe had bin dead, yet at laſt being come to her ſelfe, ſhe cried and ſcriched out in this wiſe.

ALas ſweete infortunate babe, ſcarſe borne before enuied by fortune: would the day of thy birth had bin the tearme of thy life, then ſhouldeſt thou haue made an end to care, and preuented thy fathers rigor. Thy faults cannot yet deſerue ſuch hatefull reuenge, thy dayes are too ſhort for ſo ſharpe a dome, but thy vntimely death muſt pay thy mothers debtes, and her guiltleſſe crime muſt be thy gaſtly curſe. And ſhalt thou ſweete babe be committed to fortune? When thou art alreadie ſpighted by fortune: ſhall the ſeas be thy harbour, and the hard boate thy cradle? Shall thy tender mouth in ſtede of ſweete kiſſes, be nipped with bitter ſtormes? Shalt thou haue the whiſtling winds for thy Lullabie, and the ſalt ſea fome in ſtead of ſweet milke? Alas, what deſtinies would aſſigne ſuch hard hap? What father would be ſo cruell? Or what gods will not reuenge ſuch rigor? Let me kiſſe thy lips (ſweet infant) and wet thy tender cheekes with my teares, & put this chaine

about

about thy litle necke, that if fortune ſaue thée, it may helpe to ſuccour thée. Thus, ſince thou muſt go to ſurge in the gaſtfull ſeas, with a ſorrowfull kiſſe I bid thée farewell, and I pray the Gods thou mayſt fare well. Such, and ſo great was her griefe, that her vital ſpirits being ſuppreſſed with ſorrow, ſhe fell againe downe in a traunce, hauing her ſences ſo ſotted with care, that after ſhe was reuiued, yet ſhe loſt her memorie, and lay for a great time without mouing as one in a traunce. The gard left her in this perplexitie, and caried the child to the king, who quite deuoyd of pitie, commanded that without delay it ſhould be put into the boate, hauing neither ſaile nor other to guide it, and ſo to be carried into the midſt of the ſea, and there left to the wind and waue as the deſtinies pleaſe to appoint. The verie ſhipmen ſéeing the ſwéet countenance of the yong babe, began to accuſe the King of rigor, and to pitie the childs hard fortune: but feare conſtrained them to that which their nature did abhorre: ſo that they placed it in one of the ends of the boat, and with a few greene bows made a homely cabbin to ſhroud it as they could from wind & weather: hauing thus trimmed the boat they tied it to a ſhip, and ſo haled it into the maine ſea, & then cut in ſunder the coard, which they had no ſoner done, but there aroſe a mighty tempeſt, which toſſed the litle boate ſo vehemently in the waues, that the ſhipmen thought it could not continue long without ſincking, yea the ſtorme grewe ſo great, that with much labour and perill they got to the ſhore. But leauing the childe to her fortunes. Againe to Pandoſto, who not yet glutted with ſufficient reuenge, deuiſed which way he ſhould beſt increaſe his wiues calamitie. But firſt aſſembling his Nobles and Counſellours, he called her for the more reproch into open Court, where it was obiected againſt her, that ſhe had committed adulterie with Egiſtus, and conſpired with Franion to poyſon Pandoſto her husband, but their pretence being partly ſpied, ſhe counſelled them to flie away by night for their better ſafetie. Bellaria, who ſtanding like a priſoner at the barre, féeling in her ſelfe a cleare conſcience to withſtand her falſe accuſers: ſéeing that no leſſe then death could paciſie her husbands wrath, waxed bold, & deſired that ſhe might haue Law

and Juſtice, for mercy ſhe neither craued nor hoped, and that thoſe periured wretches, which had falſly accuſed her to the King, might be brought before her face, to giue in euidence. Pandoſto, whoſe rage and iealouſie was ſuch, as no reaſon, nor equitie could appeaſe: told her, that for her accuſers they were of ſuch credit, as their words were ſufficient witneſſe, and that the ſodaine and ſecrete flight of Egiſtus and Franion confirmed that which they had confeſſed: and as for her, it was her part to deny ſuch a monſtrous crime, and to be impudent in forſwearing the fact, ſince ſhe had paſt all ſhame in committing the fault: but her ſtale countenance ſhould ſtand for no coyne, for as the Baſtard which ſhe bare was ſerued, ſo ſhe ſhould with ſome cruel death be requited. Bellaria no whit diſmayed with this rough reply, told her huſband Pandoſto, that he ſpake vpon choller, & not conſcience: for her vertuous life had bin euer ſuch, as no ſpot of ſuſpitiõ could euer ſtaine. And if ſhe had borne a friendly countenance to Egiſtus, it was in reſpek he was his friend, and not for any luſting affection: therfore if ſhe were condemned without any further proofe, it was rigor, and not Law. The Noble men which ſate in iudgement, ſaid that Bellaria ſpake reaſon, and intreated the King that the accuſers might be openly examined, and ſworne, if then the euidence were ſuch, as the Jurie might find her guiltie (for ſeeing ſhe was a Prince) ſhe ought to be tryed by her peeres, then let her haue ſuch puniſhment as the extremity of the Law will aſſigne to ſuch malefactors. The king preſently made anſwer, that in this caſe he might, and would diſpence with the Law: and that the Jurie being once panneled, they ſhould take his word for ſufficiẽt euidence, otherwiſe he wold make the proudeſt of them repent it. The noble men ſeeing the king in choler, were al whiſt, but Bellaria, whoſe life thẽ hung in the ballance, fearing more perpetual infamie, then momẽtarie death, told the king, if his furie might ſtand for a Law, that it were vaine to haue the Jurie yeeld their verdit, & therefore ſhe fell downe vpon her knees, and deſired the king that for the loue he bare to his young ſonne Garinter, whom ſhe brought into the world, that he would graunt her a requeſt, which was this, that it would pleaſe his Maieſtie to ſend for of

his

his noble men whom he beſt truſted, to the Ile of Delphos, there to enquire of the Oracle of Apollo, whether ſhe had cõmitted adulterie with Egiſtus, or cõſpired to poyſon him with Franion: and if the God Apollo, who by his diuine eſſence knew all ſecrets, gaue anſwer that ſhe was guiltie, ſhe were content to ſuffer any torment, were it neuer ſo terrible. The requeſt was ſo reaſonable, that Pandoſto could not for ſhame denie it, vnleſſe he would be counted of all his ſubiectes more wilfull then wiſe, he therfore agreed, that with as much ſpæde as might be there ſhould be certaine Embaſſadors diſpatched to the Ile of Delphos: and in the meane ſeaſon he commaunded that his wife ſhould be kept in cloſe priſon. Bellaria hauing obtained this grant, was now more carefull for her litle babe that floated on the ſeas, then ſorrowfull for her owne miſhap. For of that ſhe doubted: of her ſelfe ſhe was aſſured, knowing if Apollo ſhould giue Oracle according to the thoughts of the heart, yet the ſentence ſhould go on her ſide, ſuch was ỹ clærenes ſe of her mind in this caſe. But Pandoſto (whoſe ſuſpitious head ſtill remained in one ſong) choſe out fiue of his Nobility, whom he knew were ſcarſe indifferẽt men in the Quæns behalfe, and prouiding all things fit for their iourney, ſent them to Delphos: they willing to fulfill the kings command, & deſirous to ſæ the ſituation and cuſtome of the Iland, diſpatched their affairs with as much ſpæd as might be, & embarked themſelues to the voyage, which (the wind and weather ſeruing fit for their purpoſe) was ſone ended. For within thræ wækes they arriued at Delphos, where they were no ſoner ſet on land, but with great deuotion they went to the Temple of Apollo, and there offring ſacrifice to the God, and gifts to the Prieſt, as the cuſtome was, they humbly craued an anſwer of their demaund: they had not long knæled at the Altar, but Apollo with a loud voyce ſaid: Bohemians, what you find behind the Altar take, and depart. They forthwith obeying the Oracle found a ſcroule of parchment, wherein was written theſe words in letters of gold.

The Oracle.

Suſpition is no proofe: Iealouſie is an vnequall Iudge:
Bellaria is chaſt: Egiſtus blameleſſe: Franion a true

ſubiect: Pandoſto treacherous: his babe an innocent, and the King ſhall liue without an heire: if that which is loſt be not found.

AS ſoone as they had taken out this ſcroule, the Priest of the God commanded them that they ſhould not preſume to reade it, before they came in the preſence of Pandoſto: vnleſſe they would incurre the diſpleaſure of Apollo. The Bohemian Lords carefully obeying his command, taking their leaue of the Priest, with great reuerence departed out of the Temple, and went to their ſhips, and aſſoone as wind would permit them, ſailed toward Bohemia, whither in ſhort time they ſafely arriued, & with great triumph iſſuing out of their ſhips, went to the Kings pallace, whom they found in his chãber accompanied with other Noble men: Pandoſto no ſoner ſaw them, but with a merrie countenance he welcomed them home, aſking what newes: they told his Maieſtie that they had receiued an anſwer of the God written in a ſcroule, but with this charge, that they ſhould not reade the contents before they came in the preſence of the King and with that they deliuered him ẏ parchment: but his Noble men intreated him that ſith therein was contained either the ſafetie of his wiues life and honeſty, or her death and perpetuall infamie, that he would haue his Nobles & Cõmons aſſembled in the iudgemẽt Hal, where the Quéene brought in as a priſoner, ſhould heare the contents: if ſhe were found guilty by the Oracle of ẏ God, then all ſhould haue cauſe to thinke his rigor proceéded of due deſert: if her Grace were found faultleſſe, then ſhe ſhould be clæred before all, ſith ſhe had bin accuſed openly. This pleaſed the King ſo, that he appointed the day, & aſſembled al his Lords and Commons, & cauſed the Quéene to be brought in before the Iudgement ſeat, commanding that the inditement ſhould be read, wherein ſhe was accuſed of adulterie with Egiſtus, & of conſpiracie with Franion: Bellaria hearing the contents, was no whit aſtoniſhed, but made this chéerefull anſwer.

IF the deuine powers be priuie to humane actions (as no doubt they are) I hope my patiẽce ſhal make fortune bluſh, and

and my vnſpotted life ſhall ſtayne ſpightfully diſcredit. For although lying repoꝛt hath ſought to appeach mine honoꝛ, and ſuſpition hath intended to ſoyle my credit with infamie: yet where vertue kéepeth the foꝛt, repoꝛt and ſuſpition may aſſayle, but neuer ſacke: how I haue led my life beforе Egiſtus comming, I appeale Pandoſto to the Gods, & to thy conſciẽce. What hath paſſed betwixt him and me, the Gods only know, and I hope will preſently reueale: that I loued Egiſtus I can not deny, that I honoꝛed him I ſhame not to cõfeſſe: to the one I was foꝛced by his vertues: to ỹ other foꝛ his dignities. But as touching laſcivious luſt, I ſay Egiſtus is honeſt, and hope my ſelfe to be found without ſpot: foꝛ Franion, I can neither accuſe him, noꝛ excuſe him: foꝛ I was not priuie to his departure, and that this is true which I haue here rehearſed, I referre my ſelfe to the diuine Oꝛacle.

BEllaria had no ſoner ſayd, but the king commaunded that one of his Dukes ſhould read the contents of the ſcroule: which after the commons had heard, they gaue a great ſhout, reioyſing & clapping their hands that the Quéene was cleare of that falſe accuſation: but the king whoſe conſcience was a witneſſe againſt him of his witleſſe furie, and falſe ſuſpected ielouſie, was ſo aſhamed of his raſh folly, that he intreated his nobles to perſwade Bellaria to foꝛgiue, and foꝛget theſe iniuries: promiſing not onely to ſhew himſelfe a loyall & louing huſband, but alſo to reconcile himſelfe to Egiſtus, and Franion: reuealing then beforе them all the cauſe of their ſecret flight, and how trecherouſly he thought to haue practiſed his death, if the good minde of his cupbearer had not preuẽted his purpoſe. As thus he was relating the whole matter, there was woꝛd bꝛought him ỹ his young ſonne Garinter was ſodainly dead, which newes ſo ſone as Bellaria heard, ſurcharged beforе which extreme ioy, & now ſuppꝛeſſed with heauy ſoꝛrow, her vitall ſpirites were ſo ſtopped, that ſhe fell downe preſently dead, and could be neuer reuiued. This ſodaine ſight ſo appalled the kings ſences, that he ſancke from his ſeate in a ſound ſo as he was fayne to be carried by his nobles to his Pallace, where he lay by the ſpace of thꝛée dayes without ſpeach: his

commõs were as men in dispayre, so diuersly distressed: there was nothing but mourning & lamẽtation to be heard throughout all Bohemia: their young Prince dead, their vertuous Queene bereaued of her life, and their King and soueraigne in great hazard: this tragicall discourse of fortune so daunted them, as they wẽt like shadowes, not men: yet somewhat to comfort their heauie hearts, they heard that Pandosto was come to himselfe, and had recouered his speach, who as in furie brayed out these bitter speaches.

O Miserable Pandosto, what surer witnesse then conscięce? What thoughtes more sower then suspition? What plague more bad then Iealousie? Vnnaturall actions offend the Gods, more than men, and causeless crueltie neuer scapes without reuenge: I haue committed such a bloudy fact, as repent I may, but recall I cannot. Ah Iealousie, a hell to ẏ mind, & a horrour to the conscience, suppressing reason, and inciting rage: a worse passion then phrẽsie, a greater plague thẽ madnesse. Are the Gods iust? Then let them reuenge such brutish crueltie: my innocent babe I haue drowned in the seas: my louing wife I haue slayne with slaunderous suspitiõ: my trusty friend I haue sought to betray, & yet ẏ Gods are slacke to plague such offences. Ah vniust Apollo, Pandosto is the man ẏ hath cõmitted the fault: why should Garinter, sely child, abide ẏ payne? Well sith the Gods meane to prolõg my dayes, to increase my dolour, I will offer my guilty bloud a sacrifice to those sackelesse soules, whose liues are lost by my rigorous folly. And with that he reached at a rapier, to haue murdered himselfe, but his Pęres being present, stayed him from such a bloudy act: perswading him to thinke, that the commõ wealth consisted on his safetie, and that those shęepe could not but perish, that wanted a shepheard: wishing, that if he would not liue for himselfe, yet he should haue care of his subiectes, & to put such fãcies out of his minde, sith in sores past helpe, salues do not heale, but hurt: & in things past cure, care is a corasiue: with these and such like perswasions the king was ouercome, and began somewhat to quiet his minde: so that assone as he could goe abroad, he caused his wife to be embalmed, and

wrapt

wrapt in lead with her young ſonne Garinter: erecting a rich and famous Sepulchre, wherein he intombed them both, making ſuch ſolemne obſequies at her funerall, as all Boheinia might perceiue he did greatly repent him of his forepaſſed folly: cauſing this Epitaph to be ingrauen on her Tombe in letters of gold:

¶The Epitaph.

Here lyes entombde Bellaria faire,
Falſly accuſed to be vnchaſt:
Cleared by Apollos ſacred doome,
Yet ſlaine by Ielouſie at laſt.

What ere thou be, that paſſeſt by,
Curſſe him that cauſde this Queene to dye.

THis Epitaph being ingraué, Pandoſto would once a day repaire to the Tombe, and there with watry plaints bewayle his miſfortune: coueting no other companion but ſorrow nor no other harmonie, but repẽtance. But leauing him to his dolorous paſſions, at laſt let vs come to ſhew the tragicall diſcourſe of the young infant.

VVHo beeing toſſed with wind, and waue, floated two whole dayes without ſuccour, ready at euery puffe to be drowned in the ſea, till at laſt the tempeſt ceaſſed, & the little boate was driuen with the tyde into the coaſt of Sycilia, where ſticking vpon the ſandes, it reſted. Fortune minding to be wanton, willing to ſhew that as ſhe hath wrinckles on her browes: ſo ſhe hath dimples in her cheekes: thought after ſo many ſower lookes, to lend a fayned ſmile, & after a puffing ſtorme, to bring a prety calme: ſhe begã thus to dally. It fortuned a poore mercenary ſhepheard, that dwelled in Sycilia, who got his liuing by other mens flockes, miſſed one of his ſheepe, & thinking it had ſtrayed into the couert, that was hard by, ſought very diligently to find ỳ which he could not ſee, fearing either that the wolues, or Eagles had vndone him (for he

was so poore, as a sheepe was halfe his substaunce) wandered downe toward the sea cliffes, to see if perchaũce the sheepe was browsing on the sea Iuy, whereon they greatly do feede, but not finding her there, as he was ready to returne to his flock, he heard a child cry: but knowing there was no house neare, he thought he had mistaken the sound, & that it was the bleating of his sheepe. Wherfore looking more narrowly, as he cast his eye to the sea, he spyed a little boate, frõ whence as he attentiuely listened, he might heare the cry to come: standing a good while in a maze, at last he went to the shoare, & wading to the boate, as he looked in, he saw the little babe lying all alone, ready to dye for hunger & cold, wrapped in a mantle of scarlet, richly imbrodered with gold, & hauing a chayne about the necke. The shepheard, who before had neuer seene so faire a babe, nor so rich iewels, thought assuredly, that it was some little God, & begã with great deuotiõ to knocke on his breast. The babe, who wrythed with the head, to seeke for the pap, begã againe to cry a fresh, whereby the poore man knew that it was a child, which by some sinister meanes was driuẽ thither by distresse of weather: maruailing how such a seely infant, which by the mãtle, & the chayne, could not be but borne of noble parẽtage, should be so hardly crossed with deadly mishap. The poore shepheard perplexed thus with diuers thoughtes, tooke pitie of the child, & determined wͤ himselfe to carry it to the king, ẏ there it might be brought vp, according to the worthynesse of byrth: for his abilitie could not afford to foster it, though his good mind was willing to further it. Taking therfore the child in his armes, as he foulded the mantle together, the better to defend it from cold, there fell downe at his foote a very faire & rich purse, wherein he found a great sũme of gold: which sight so reuiued the shepheards spirits, as he was greatly rauished with ioy, & daunted with feare: Ioyfull to see such a sũme in his power: & fearefull if it should be knowne, that it might breede his further daunger. Necessitie wisht him at the least, to retaine the gold, though he would not keepe the child: the simplicitie of his conscience feared him frõ such deceiptfull briberie. Thus was the poore man perplexed with a doubtfull Dilemma, vntil at last the couetousnes of the coyne ouercame him:

him: for what will not the grædy deſire of gold cauſe a man to do? So that he was reſolued in himſelfe to foſter the child, & with the ſumme to relieue his want: reſting thus reſolute in this point, he left ſæking of his ſhæpe, & as couertly, & ſecretly as he could, went by a byway to his houſe, leaſt any of his neighbours ſhould perceaue his carriage: aſſone as he was got home, entring in at the doore, the child began to cry, which his wife hearing, and ſæing her husband with a yoũg babe in his armes, began to be ſomewhat ielous, yet marueiling that her husband ſhould be ſo wanton abroad, ſith he was ſo quiet at home: but as womẽ are naturally giuẽ to beléeue the worſt, ſo his wife thinking it was ſome baſtard: began to crow againſt her goodmã, and taking vp a cudgell (for the moſt maiſter went bræchleſſe) ſware ſolemnly that ſhe would make clubs trũps, if he brought any baſtard brat within her doores. The goodman ſæing his wife in her maieſtie with her mace in her hand, thought it was time to bow for feare of blowes, & deſired her to be quiet, for there was none ſuch matter: but if ſhe could hold her peace, they were made for euer: and with that he told her the whole matter, how he had found the child in a little boate, without any ſuccour, wrapped in that coſtly mantle, & hauing that rich chayne about the necke: but at laſt when he ſhewed her the purſe full of gold, ſhe began to ſimper ſomething ſwætely, and taking her husband about the necke, kiſſed him after her homely faſhiõ: ſaying that ſhe hoped God had ſæne their want, and now ment to reléeue their pouerty, and ſæing they could get no children, had ſent them this little babe to be their heire. Take hæde in any caſe (quoth the ſhepheard) that you be ſecret, & blabbe it not out when you mæte with your goſſippes, for if you doe, we are like not onely to loſe the gold and iewels, but our other goodes and liues. Tuſh (quoth his wife) profit is a good hatch before the doore: feare not, I haue other things to talke of then of this: but I pray you let vs lay vp the money ſurely, and the iewels leaſt by any miſhap it be eſpied. After that they had ſet al things in order, the ſhepheard went to his ſhæpe with a merry note, & the good wife learned to ſing lullaby at home with her yoũg babe, wrapping it in a homely blãket in ſtæd of a rich mantle,

nouriſhing it ſo cleanly and carefully as it begã to be a iolly girle, in ſo much that they began both of them to be very fond of it, ſeeing, as it wared in age, ſo it increaſed in beauty. The ſhepheard euery night at his comming home, would ſing and daunce it on his knee, and prattle, that in a ſhort time it began to ſpeake and call him Dad, and her Mam: at laſt when it grew to ripe yeares, that it was about ſeuen yeares old, the ſhepheard left keeping of other mens ſheepe, and with the money he found in the purſe, he bought him the leaſe of a pretty farme, and got a ſmall flocke of ſheepe, which when Fawnia (for ſo they named the child) came to the age of ten yeares he ſet her to keepe, and ſhe with ſuch diligence performed her charge as the ſheepe proſpered marueilouſly vnder her hand. Fawnia thought Porrus had bin her father, and Mopſa her mother, (for ſo was the ſhepheard and his wife called) honoured and obeyed them with ſuch reuerence, that all the neighbours prayſed the duetifull obedience of the child. Porrus grew in ſhort time to be a man of ſome wealth, and credite: for fortune ſo fauoured him in hauing no charge but Fawnia, that he began to purchaſe land, intending after his death to giue it to his daughter: ſo that diuers rich farmers ſonnes came as woers to his houſe: for Fawnia was ſomething cleanly attired, being of ſuch ſingular beautie and excellent wit, that whoſo ſaw her, would haue thought ſhe had bene ſome heauenly nymph, and not a mortall creature: in ſo much, that when ſhe came to the age of ſixteene yeares, ſhe ſo increaſed with exquiſite perfection both of body and minde, as her naturall diſpoſitiõ did bewray that ſhe was borne of ſome high parentage: but the people thinking ſhe was daughter to the ſhepheard Porrus; reſted only amazed at her beauty and wit: yea ſhe won ſuch fauour and commendations in euery mans eye, as her beautie was not onely prayſed in the coũtrey, but alſo ſpoken of in the Court: yet ſuch was her ſubmiſſe modeſtie, ỹ although her prayſe daily increaſed, her mind was no whit puffed vp with pride, but humbled her ſelfe as became a countrey mayd and the daughter of a poore ſhepheard. Euery day ſhe went forth with her ſheepe to the field, keeping them with ſuch care and diligence, as all mẽ thought ſhe was very painfull,

full, defending her face from the heat of the ſunne with no other vale, but with a garland made of bowes and flowers: which attire became her ſo gallantly, as ſhe ſeemed to be the Goddeſſe Flora her ſelfe for beauty. Fortune, who all this while had ſhewed a friendly face, begã now to turne her backe, and to ſhew a lowring coũtenaunce, intending as ſhe had giuen Fawnia a ſlender cheeke, ſo ſhe would giue her a harder mate: to bring which to paſſe, ſhe layd her traine on this wiſe. Egiſtus had but one onely ſonne called Doraſtus, about ỹ age of twenty yeares: a Prince ſo decked and adorned with the giftes of nature: ſo fraught with beauty and vertuous qualities, as not onely his father ioyed to haue ſo good a ſonne, and all his cõmons reioyced that God had lent them ſuch a noble Prince to ſucceede in the kingdome. Egiſtus placing all his ioy in the perfection of his ſonne: ſeeing that he was now marigeable, ſent Embaſſadours to the king of Denmarke, to intreate a mariage betweene him and his daughter, who willingly cõſenting, made anſwere, that ỹ next ſpring, if it pleaſe Egiſtus with his ſonne to come into Denmarke, he doubted not, but they ſhould agree vpon reaſonable conditions. Egiſtus reſting ſatiſfied with this friendly aunſwere, thought conuenient in the meane time to breake with his Sonne: finding therefore on a day fit opportunity he ſpake to him in theſe fatherly termes.

DOraſtus, thy youth warneth me to preuent the worſt, and mine age to prouide the beſt. Opportunities neglected, are ſignes of folly: actions meaſured by time, are ſeldome bitten with repentance: thou art young, and I old: age hath taught me that, which thy youth cannot yet conceiue.

I therfore will counſell thee as a father, hoping thou wilt obey as a child. Thou ſeeſt my white hayres are bloſſomes for the graue, and thy freſh colour fruite for time and fortune, ſo that it behoueth me to thinke how to dye, and for thee to care how to liue. My crowne I muſt leaue by death, and thou enioy my kingdome by ſucceſſion, wherein I hope thy vertue and proweſſe ſhall be ſuch, as though my ſubiectes want my perſon, yet they ſhall ſee in thee my perfection. That

nothing either may fayle to ſatiſfie thy minde, or increaſe thy dignities: the onely care I haue, is to ſée thée well married before I dye, and thou become old.

Doraſtus who from his infancie, delighted rather to dye with Mars in the field, then to dally with Venus in the chamber: fearing to diſpleaſe his father, and yet not willing to be wed, made him this reuerent anſwere.

SIr, there is no greater bond then duetie, nor no ſtraiter law then nature: diſobediẽce in youth is often galled with deſpight in age. The commaund of the father ought to be a a conſtraint to the child: ſo parents willes are lawes, ſo they paſſe not all lawes: may it pleaſe your grace therefore to appoint whom I ſhall loue, rather then by deniall I ſhould be appeached of diſobedience: I reſt content to loue, though it be the onely thing I hate.

Egiſtus hearing his ſonne to flye farre from the marke, began to be ſomewhat chollericke, and therefore made him this haſtie anſwere.

WHat Doraſtus canſt thou not loue? Commeth this cynicall paſſion of prone deſires, or péeuiſh frowardneſſe. What doeſt thou thinke thy ſelfe to good for all, or none good inough for thée: I tell thée, Doraſtus, there is nothing ſwéeter then youth, nor ſwifter decreaſing, while it is increaſing. Time paſt with folly may be repented, but not recalled. If thou marry in age, thy wiues freſh coulours wil breéd in thée dead thoughts and ſuſpitiõ, and thy white hayres her lothſomneſſe and ſorrow. For Venus affections are not fed with kingdomes, or treaſures, but with youthfull conceits and ſwéete amours. Vulcan was allotted to ſhake the trée, but Mars allowed to reape the fruit. Yéeld Doraſtus to thy fathers perſwaſions, which may preuent thy perils. I haue choſen thée a wife, faire by nature, royall by byrth, by vertues famous, learned by education, and ritch by poſſeſſions, ſo that it is hard to iudge whether her bountie, or fortune, her beautie, or vertue, be of greater force: I meane Doraſtus, Euphania daughter and heyre to the king of Denmarke.

Egiſtus

EGiſtus pauſing here a while, loking when his ſon ſhould make him anſwere, and ſéeing that he ſtod ſtill as one in a traunce, he ſhoke him vp thus ſharply.

VVEll Doraſtus take héede, the trée Alpya waſheth not with fire, but withereth with the dew: that which loue nouriſheth not, periſheth with hate: if thou like Euphania thou bréedeſt my content, & in louing her thou ſhalt haue my loue, otherwiſe; and with that he flung from his ſonne in a rage, leauing him a ſorowfull man, in that he had by deniall diſpleaſed his father, and halfe angrie with him ſelfe that he could not yéeld to that paſſion, whereto both reaſon and his Father perſwaded him: but ſée how fortune is plumed with times feathers, and how ſhe can miniſter ſtraunge cauſes to bréede ſtrauge effectes.

It happened not long after this, that there was a méeting of all the Farmers daughters in Sycilia, whither Fawnia was alſo bidden as the Miſtreſſe of the feaſt, who hauing attired her ſelf in her beſt garments, went among the reſt of her companions to the merrie méeting: there ſpending the day in ſuch homely paſtimes as ſhepheards vſe. As the euening grew on, & their ſports ceaſed, each taking their leaue at other, Fawnia deſiring one of her companions to beare her companie, went home by the flocke, to ſée if they were well folded, and as they returned, it fortuned that Doraſtus (who all that day had bin hawking, and kild ſtore of game) incountred by the way theſe two mayds, and caſting his eye ſodeinly on Fawnia, he was halfe afrayd, fearing that with Acteon he had ſéene Diana: for he thought ſuch exquiſite perfection could not be found in anie mortall creature. As thus he ſtod in a maze, one of his Pages told him, that the mayd with the garland on her head was Fawnia the faire ſhepherd, whoſe beautie was ſo much talked of in the Court. Doraſtus deſirous to ſée if nature had adorned her minde with any inward qualities, as ſhe had decked her body with outward ſhape, began to queſtion with her whoſe daughter ſhe was, of what age, and how ſhe had bene trained vp, who anſwered him with ſuch modeſt reuerence & ſharpnes of wit, that Doraſtus thought her outward beautie was but a

counterfeit to darken her inward qualities, wondring how ſo courtly behauiour could be found in ſo ſimple a cottage, and curſing fortune that had ſhadowed wit and beautie with ſuch hard fortune. And thus he held her a long while with chat. Beautie ſeeing him at diſcouert, thought not to loſe the vantage, but ſtroke him ſo deepely with an inuenomed ſhaft, as he wholly loſt his libertie, and became a ſlaue to Loue, which before contemned Loue, glad now to gaze on a poore ſhepherd, who before refuſed the offer of a rich Princeſſe: for the perfectiõ of Fawnia had ſo fired his fancie as he felt his mind greatly chaunged, and his affections altered, curſing Loue that had wrought ſuch a chaunge, & blaming the baſeneſſe of his mind that would make ſuch a choiſe: but thinking theſe were but paſſionate toyes that might be thruſt out at pleaſure, to auoid the Syren that enchanted him, he put ſpurres to his horſe, and bad this faire ſhepherd farewell.

Fawnia (who all this while had marked the princely geſture of Doraſtus) ſeeing his face ſo well featured, and ech lim ſo perfectly framed, began greatly to praiſe his perfection, commending him ſo long, till ſhe found her ſelfe faultie, and perceiued that if ſhe waded but a litle further, ſhe might ſlip ouer the ſhoes: ſhe therefore ſeeking to quench that fire which neuer was put out, went home and fayning her ſelf not wel at eaſe, got her to bed: where caſting a thouſand thoughts in her head, ſhe could take no reſt: for if ſhe waked, ſhe began to call to mind his beautie, & thinking to begule ſuch thoughts with ſleepe, ſhe then dreamed of his perfection: peſtred thus with theſe vnacquainted paſſions, ſhe paſſed the night as ſhe could in ſhort ſlumbers.

Doraſtus (who all this while rode with a flea in his eare) could not by any meanes forget the ſweete fauour of Fawnia, but reſted ſo bewitched with her wit and beautie, as he could take no reſt. He felt fancie to giue the aſſault, and his wounded mind ready to yeeld as vanquiſhed: yet he began with diuers conſiderations to ſuppreſſe his frantick affection, calling to minde, that Fawnia was a ſhepherd, one not worthy to be loked at of a Prince, much leſſe to be loued of ſuch a potentate, thinking what a diſcredit it were to himſelfe, and what a

griefe

griefe it would be to his father, blaming fortune and accuſing his own folly, that ſhold be ſo fond as but once to caſt a glance at ſuch a country ſlut. As thus he was raging againſt himſelf, Loue, fearing if ſhe dallied long, to loſe her champion, ſtept more nigh, and gaue him ſuch a freſh wound as it pearſt him at the heart, that he was faine to yéeld, maugre his face, and to forſake the companie and get him to his chamber: where being ſolemnly ſet, he burſt into theſe paſſionate tearmes.

AH Doraſtus art thou alone? No not alone, while thou art tired with theſe vnacquainted paſſions. Yéeld to fancie, thou canſt not by thy fathers counſell, but in a frenzie thou art by iuſt deſtinies. Thy father were content, if thou couldeſt loue, and thou therefore diſcontent, becauſe thou doeſt loue. O deuine Loue, feared of men becauſe honoured of the Gods, not to be ſuppreſſed by wiſedome, becauſe not to be comprehended by reaſon: without Law, and therfore aboue all Law.

How now Doraſtus, why doeſt thou blaze that with prayſes, which thou haſt cauſe to blaſpheme with curſes? Yet why ſhould they curſe Loue, which are in Loue?

Bluſh Doraſtus at thy fortune, thy choyce, thy loue: thy thoughts cannot be vttered without ſhame, nor thy affections without diſcredit Ah Fawnia, ſweét Fawnia, thy beauty Fawnia

Shameſt not thou Doraſtus to name one vnfitte for thy birth, thy dignities, thy kingdomes? Die Doraſtus, Doraſtus die, better hadſt thou periſh with high deſires, then liue in baſe thoughts. Yea but, beautie muſt be obeyed, becauſe it is beauty, yet framed of the Gods to feede the eye, not to fetter the heart.

Ah but he that ſtriueth againſt Loue, ſhooteth with them of Scyrum againſt the wind, and with the Cockeatrice pecketh againſt the ſteele. I will therefore obey, becauſe I muſt obey. Fawnia, yea Fawnia ſhall be my fortune, in ſpight of fortune. The Gods aboue diſdaine not to loue women beneath. Phœbus liked Sibilla, Iupiter Io, and why not I then Fawnia, one ſomething inferiour to theſe in birth, but farre ſuperiour to them in beautie, borne to be a Shepherd, but worthie to be a Goddeſſe.

Ah Doraſtus, wilt thou ſo forget thy ſelfe as to ſuffer affection to ſuppreſſe wiſedome, and Loue to violate thine honor? How ſower will thy choice be to thy father, ſorowfull to thy ſubiects, to thy friends a griefe, moſt gladſome to thy foes? Subdue then thy affections, and ceaſe to loue her whom thou couldeſt not loue, vnleſſe blinded with too much loue. Tuſh I talke to the wind, and in ſeeking to preuent the cauſes, I further the effects. I will yet praiſe Fawnia, honor, yea and loue Fawnia, and at this day follow content, not counſell. Do Doraſtus, thou canſt but repent: and with that his Page came into the chamber, whereupon he ceaſed from his complaints, hoping that time would weare out that which fortune had wrought. As thus he was pained, ſo poore Fawnia was diuerſly perplexed: for the next morning getting vp very early, ſhe went to her ſheepe, thinking with hard labours to paſſe away her new conceiued amours, beginning verie buſily to driue them to the field, and then to ſhift the folds, at laſt (wearied with toyle) ſhe ſate her downe, where (poore ſoule) ſhe was more tried with fond affections: for loue began to aſſault her, in ſo much that as ſhe ſate vpon the ſide of a hill, ſhe began to accuſe her owne folly in theſe tearmes.

Infortunate Fawnia, and therfore infortunate becauſe Fawnia, thy ſhepherds houſe ſheweth thy poore ſtate, thy proud deſires an aſpiring mind: the one declareth thy want, the other thy pride. No baſtard hauke muſt ſoare ſo high as the Hobbie, no fowle gaze againſt the Sunne but the Eagle, actions wrought againſt nature reape deſpight, and thoughts aboue Fortune diſdaine.

Fawnia, thou art a ſhepheard, daughter to poore Porrus: if thou reſt content with this, thou art like to ſtande, if thou climbe thou art ſure to fall. The herbe Anita growing higher then ſixe inches becommeth a weede. Nylus flowing more then twelue cubits procureth a dearth. Daring affections that paſſe meaſure, are cut ſhort by time or fortune: ſuppreſſe then Fawnia thoſe thoughts which thou mayeſt ſhame to expreſſe. But ah Fawnia, loue is a Lord, who will command by power, and conſtraine by force.

Doraſtus,

Doraſtus, ah Doraſtus is the man I loue, the woꝛſe is thy hap, and the leſſe cauſe haſt thou to hope. Will Eagles catch at flyes, will Cedars ſtoupe to bꝛambles, oꝛ mighty Pꝛinces loke at ſuch homely trulles. No, no, thinke this, Doraſtus diſdaine is greater then thy deſire, he is a Pꝛince reſpecting his honoꝛ, thou a beggars bꝛat foꝛgetting thy calling. Ceaſe then not onely to ſay, but to thinke to loue Doraſtus, and diſſemble thy loue Fawnia, foꝛ better it were to dye with griefe, then to liue with ſhame: yet in deſpight of loue I will ſigh, to ſee if I can ſigh out loue. Fawnia ſomewhat appeaſing her griefs with theſe pithie perſwaſions, began after her wonted manner to walke about her ſheepe, and to keepe them from ſtraying into the coꝛne, ſuppꝛeſſing her affection with the due conſideration of her baſe eſtate, and with the impoſſibilities of her loue, thinking it were frēſie, not fācie, to couet that which the very deſtinies did deny her to obteine.

But Doraſtus was moꝛe impatient in his paſſions: foꝛ loue ſo fiercely aſſayled him, that neither companie, noꝛ muſicke could mittigate his martirdome, but did rather farre the moꝛe increaſe his maladie: ſhame would not let him craue counſaile in this caſe, noꝛ feare of his fathers diſpleaſure reueile it to any ſecret friend: but he was faine to make a Secretarie of himſelfe, and to participate his thoughtes with his owne troubled minde. Lingring thus awile in doubtfull ſuſpence, at laſt ſtealing ſecretly from the Court without either men oꝛ Page, he went to ſee if he could eſpye Fawnia walking abꝛoad in the field, but as one hauing a great deale moꝛe ſkill to retriue the patridge with his ſpaniels, then to hunt after ſuch a ſtraūge pꝛay, he ſought, but was little the better: which croſſe lucke dꝛaue him into a great choler, that he began both to accuſe loue and foꝛtune. But as he was ready to retire, he ſaw Fawnia ſitting all alone vnder the ſide of a hill, making a garland of ſuch homely flowꝛes as the fieldes did afoꝛd. This ſight ſo reuiued his ſpirites that he dꝛew nigh, with moꝛe iudgement to take a view of her ſingular perfection, which he found to be ſuch, as in that countrey attire ſhe ſtayned all the courtly Dames of Sycilia. While thus he ſtood gazing with pearcing lokes on her ſurpaſſing beautie,

Fawnia caſt her eye aſide, and ſpyed Doraſtus, with ſodain ſight made the poore girle to bluſh, & to dye her chriſtall cheeks with a vermilion red: which gaue her ſuch a grace, as ſhe ſeemed farre more beautifull. And with that ſhe roſe vp, ſaluting the Prince with ſuch modeſt curteſies, as he wondred how a country mayd could afford ſuch courtly behauiour. Doraſtus, repaying her curteſie with a ſmiling countenance, began to parlie with her on this manner.

FAire mayde (quoth he) either your want is great, or a ſhepheardes life very ſweete, that your delight is in ſuch country labours. I can not conceiue what pleaſure you ſhould take, vnleſſe you meane to imitate the nymphes, being your ſelfe ſo like a Nymph. To put me out of this doubt, ſhew me what is to be commended in a ſhepheardes life, and what pleaſures you haue to countervaile theſe drudging labours. Fawnia with blushing face made him this ready aunſwere.

SIr, what richer ſtate then content, or what ſweeter life then quiet, we ſhepheardes are not borne to honor, nor beholding vnto beautie, the leſſe care we haue to feare fame or fortune: we count our attire braue inough if warme inough, and our fode dainty, if to ſuffice nature: our greateſt enemy is the wolfe: our only care in ſafe keeping our flock: in ſtead of courtly ditties we ſpend the dayes with coūtry ſongs: our amorous conceites are homely thoughtes: delighting as much to talke of Pan and his country prankes, as Ladies to tell of Venus and her wanton toyes. Our toyle is in ſhifting the foulds, and loking to the Lambes eaſie labours: oft ſinging and telling tales, homely pleaſures: our greateſt wealth not to couet, our honor not to climbe, our quiet not to care. Enuie loketh not ſo low as ſhepheards: Shepheardes gaze not ſo high as ambition: we are rich in that we are poore with content, & proud onely in this that we haue no cauſe to be proud.

THis wittie anſwere of Fawnia ſo inflamed Doraſtus fancy, as he commended himſelfe for making ſo good a choice, thinking, if her birth were aunſwerable to her wit and beautie,

tie, that ſhe were a fit mate for the moſt famous Prince in the world. He therefore began to lift her more narrowly on this manner.

FAwnia, I ſée thou art content with country labours, becauſe thou knoweſt not Courtly pleaſures: I commẽd thy wit, and pitie thy want: but wilt thou leaue thy Fathers cottage, and ſerue a Courtly Miſtreſſe.

Sir (quoth ſhe) beggers ought not to ſtriue againſt fortune, nor to gaze after honour, leaſt either their fall be greater, or they become blind. I am borne to toyle for the Court, not in the Court, my nature vnfit for their nurture, better liue then in meane degree, then in high diſdaine.

Well ſaid Fawnia (quoth Doraſtus) I geſſe at thy thoughts, thou art in loue with ſome country ſhepheard.

No ſir (quoth ſhe) ſhepheardes cannot loue, that are ſo ſimple and maydes may not loue that are ſo young.

Nay therfore (quoth Doraſtus) maydes muſt loue, becauſe they are young, for Cupid is a child, and Venus, though old, is painted with freſh coulours.

I graũt (quoth ſhe) age may be painted with new ſhadows, and youth may haue imperfect affections: but what arte concealeth in one, ignorance reuealeth in the other. Doraſtus ſéeing Fawnia held him ſo hard, thought it was vaine ſo long to beate about the buſh: therefore he thought to haue giuen her a freſh charge: but he was ſo preuented by certaine of his mẽ, who miſſing their maiſter, came poſting to ſéeke him, ſéeing that he was gone forth all alone, yet before they drew ſo nye that they might heare their talke, he vſed theſe ſpeaches.

Why Fawnia, perhaps I loue thée, and then thou muſt nẽdes yéelde, for thou knoweſt I can commaunde and conſtraine. Truth ſir (quoth ſhe) but not to loue: for conſtrained loue is force, not loue: and know this ſir, mine honeſty is ſuch, as I had rather dye then be a Concubine euen to a King, and my birth is ſo baſe as I am vnfit to be a wife to a poore farmer. Why then (quoth he) thou canſt not loue Doraſtus? Yes ſayd Fawnia, when Doraſtus becomes a ſhepheard, and with that the preſence of his men broke off their parle, ſo that

he went with them to the Palace, and left Fawnia ſitting ſtill on the hill ſide, who ſeeing that the night drew on, ſhifted her foulds, and buſied her ſelfe about other worke to driue away ſuch fond fancies as began to trouble her braine. But all this could not preuaile, for the beautie of Doraſtus had made ſuch a deepe impreſſion in her heart, as it could not be worne out without cracking, ſo that ſhe was forced to blame her owne folly in this wiſe.

AH Fawnia, why doeſt thou gaze againſt the Sunne, or catch at the wind: ſtarres are to be loked at with the eye, not reacht at with the hand: thoughtes are to be meaſured by Fortunes, not by deſires: falles come not by ſitting low, but by climing to hye: what then ſhall all feare to fall, becauſe ſome hap to fall? No lucke commeth by lot, and fortune windeth thoſe threedes which the deſtinies ſpin. Thou art fauored Fawnia of a Prince, and yet thou art ſo fond to reiect deſired fauours: thou haſt deniall at thy toungs end, and deſire at thy hearts bottome: a womans fault, to ſpurne at that with her foote, which ſhe greedily catcheth at with her hãd. Thou loueſt Doraſtus, Fawnia, and yet ſeemeſt to lower. Take heede, if he retire, thou wilt repent: for vnles he loue, thou canſt but dye. Dye then Fawnia: for Doraſtus doth but ieſt: the Lyon neuer prayeth on the mouſe, nor Faulcons ſtoupe not to dead ſtales. Sit downe then in ſorrow, ceaſſe to loue, and content thy ſelfe, that Doraſtus will vouchſafe to flatter Fawnia, though not to fancie Fawnia. Heigh ho: Ah fole, it were ſeemelier for thee to whiſtle as a ſhepheard, then to ſigh as a louer, and with that ſhe ceaſſed from theſe perplexed paſſions, folding her ſheepe, and hying home to her poore cottage. But ſuch was the inceſſant ſorrow of Doraſtus to thinke on the wit and beautie of Fawnia, an to ſee how fond he was being a Prince: and how froward ſhe was being a beggar, then he began to loſe his wonted appetite, to loke pale and wan: in ſtead of mirth, to feede on melancholie: for courtly daunces to vſe cold dumpes: in ſo much that not onely his owne men, but his father and all the Court began to maruaile at his ſodain change, thinking that ſome lingring ſickneſs had brought

him

him into this ſtate: wherfore he cauſed Phiſitions to come, but Doraſtus neither would let them miniſter, nor ſo much as ſuffer them to ſee his vrine: but remained ſtil ſo oppreſſed with theſe paſſions, as he feared in him ſelfe a farther inconuenience. His honor wiſhed him to ceaſſe from ſuch folly, but Loue forced him to follow fancy: yea and in deſpite of honour, loue wonne the conqueſt, ſo that his hot deſires cauſed him to find new deuiſes, for he preſently made him ſelfe a ſhepheards coate, that he might go vnknowne, and with the leſſe ſuſpition to prattle with Fawnia, and conueyed it ſecretly into a thicke groue hard ioyning to the Pallace, whither finding fit time, and opportunitie, he went all alone, and putting off his princely apparell, got on thoſe ſhepherds robes, and taking a great hooke in his hand (which he had alſo gotten) he went very anciently to find out the miſtreſſe of his affection: but as he went by the way, ſeeing him ſelfe clad in ſuch vnſeemely ragges, he began to ſmile at his owne folly, and to reproue his fondneſſe in theſe tearmes.

WEll ſaid Doraſtus, thou keepeſt a right decorum, baſe deſires and homely attires: thy thoughts are fit for none but a ſhepheard, and thy apparell ſuch as only become a ſhepheard. A ſtrange change from a Prince to a peſant. What is it thy wretched fortune or thy wilful folly? Is it thy curſed deſtinies or thy croked deſires, that appoynteth thee this penance? Ah Doraſtus thou canſt but loue, and vnleſſe thou loue thou art like to periſh for loue. Yet fond fole, chooſe flowers, not weedes: Diamonds, not peables: Ladies which may honour thee, not ſhepheards which may diſgrace thee. Venus is painted in ſilkes, not in ragges: and Cupid treadeth on diſdaine, when he reacheth at dignitie. And yet Doraſtus ſhame not at thy ſhepheards weede: the heauenly Gods haue ſometime earthly thoughts: Neptune became a Ram, Iupiter a Bull, Apollo a ſhepherd: they Gods, and yet in loue: and thou a man appointed to loue.

Deuiſing thus with him ſelfe, he drew nigh to the place where Fawnia was keeping her ſheepe, who caſting her eye aſide, and ſeeing ſuch a manerly ſhepheard, perfectly limmed,

& comming with ſo good a pace, ſhe began halfe to forget Doraſtus, & to fauor this prettie ſhepheard, whom ſhe thought ſhe might both loue & obtaine: but as ſhe was in theſe thoughts, ſhe perceiued then, it was the yong Prince Doraſtus, wherefore ſhe roſe vp, and reuerently ſaluted him. Doraſtus taking her by ỹ hand, repayed her curteſie with a ſweete kiſſe, & praying her to ſit downe by him, he began thus to lay the batterie.

IF thou maruell Fawnia at my ſtrange attire, thou wouldeſt more muſe at mine vnaccuſtomed thoughts: the one diſgraceth but my outward ſhape, the other diſturbeth my inward ſences. I loue Fawnia, and therefore what loue liketh I can not miſlike. Fawnia thou haſt promiſed to loue, and I hope thou wilt performe no leſſe: I haue fulfilled thy requeſt, and now thou canſt but graunt my deſire. Thou wert content to loue Doraſtus when he ceaſt to be a Prince, and to become a ſhepherd, and ſee I haue made the change, and therefore not to miſſe of my choice.

TRuth, quoth Fawnia, but all that weare Coles are not Monkes: paynted Eagles are pictures, not Eagles, Zeuſis Grapes were like Grapes, yet ſhadowes: rich cloathing make not princes: nor homely attire beggers: ſhepherds are not called ſhepherds, becauſe they weare hookes and bagges: but they are borne poore, and liue to keepe ſheepe, ſo this attire hath not made Doraſtus a ſhepherd, but to ſeeme like a ſhepherd.

WEll Fawnia, anſwered Doraſtus: were I a ſhepherd I could not but like thee, & being a prince I am forſt to loue thee. Take heede Fawnia, be not proud of beauties painting, for it is a flower that fadeth in the bloſſome. Thoſe which diſdaine in youth, are deſpiſed in age: Beauties ſhadowes are trickt vp with times colours, which being ſet to drie in the ſunne are ſtained with the ſunne, ſcarſe pleaſing the ſight ere they begin not to be worth the ſight, not much vnlike the herbe Ephemeron, which flouriſheth in the morning, and is withered before the ſunne ſetting: if my deſire were againſt

againſt law, thou mightest iuſtly deny me by reaſon, but I loue thée Fawnia, not to miſuſe thée as a Concubine, but to vſe thée as my wife: I can promiſe no more, and meane to performe no leſſe.

Fawnia hearing this ſolmne proteſtation of Doraſtus, could no longer withſtand the aſſault, but yéelded vp the fort in theſe friendly tearmes.

AH Doraſtus, I ſhame to expreſſe that thou forceſt me with thy ſugred ſpéech to confeſſe: my baſe birth cauſeth the one, and thy high dignities the other. Beggers thoughtes ought not to reach ſo farre as Kings, and yet my deſires reach as high as Princes, I dare not ſay Doraſtus, I loue thée, becauſe I am a ſhepherd, but the Gods know I haue honoured Doraſtus (pardon if I ſay amiſſe) yea and loued Doraſtus with ſuch dutiful affection as Fawnia can performe, or Doraſtus deſire: I yéeld, not ouercome with prayers, but with loue, reſting Doraſtus handmaid readie to obey his will, if no preiudice at all to his honour, nor to my credit.

DOraſtus hearing this friendly concluſion of Fawnia, embraced her in his armes, ſwearing that neither diſtance, time, nor aduerſe fortune ſhould diminiſh his affection: but that in deſpight of the deſtinies he would remaine loyall vnto death. Hauing thus plight their troath each to other, ſéeing they could not haue the full fruition of their loue in Sycilia, for that Egiſtus conſent woulde neuer be graunted to ſo meane a match, Doraſtus determined aſſone as time and opportunitie would giue them leaue, to prouide a great maſſe of money, and many rich & coſtly iewels, for the eaſier carriage, and thẽ to tranſport them ſelues and their treaſure into Italy, where they ſhould leade a contented life, vntil ſuch time as either he could be reconciled to his father, or elſe by ſucceſſion come to the Kingdome. This deuiſe was greatly prayſed of Fawnia, for ſhe feared if the king his father ſhould but heare of the contract, that his furie would be ſuch as no leſſe then death would ſtand for payment: ſhe therefore told him, that delay bred daunger: that many miſhaps did fall out betwéene the

cup and the lip, and that to auoyd daunger, it were beſt with as much ſpæd as might be, to paſſe out of Sycilia, leaſt fortune might preuent their pretence with ſome newe deſpight: Doraſtus, whom loue pricked forward with deſire, promiſed to diſpatch his affaires with as great haſt, as either time or opportunitie would giue him leaue: and ſo reſting vpon this point, after many imbracings and ſweet kiſſes they departed. Doraſtus hauing take his leaue of his beſt beloued Fawnia, went to the groue where he had his rich apparell, and there vncaſing him ſelfe as ſecretly as might be, hiding vp his ſhepheards attire, till occaſion ſhould ſerue againe to vſe it: he went to the pallace, ſhewing by his merrie countenance, that either the ſtate of his body was amended, or the caſe of his mind greatly redreſſed. Fawnia poore ſoule was no leſſe ioyfull, that being a ſhepheard, fortune had fauoured her ſo, as to reward her with the loue of a Prince, hoping in time to be aduanced from the daughter of a poore farmer, to be the wife of a rich King: ſo that ſhe thought euery houre a yeare, till by their departure they might preuent daunger, not ceaſing ſtill to go euery day to her ſhæpe, not ſo much for the care of her flocke, as for the deſire ſhe had to ſæ her loue and Lord Doraſtus: who oftentimes, when opportunitie would ſerue, repaired thither to fæde his fancie with the ſwæte content of Fawnias preſence: and although he neuer went to viſit her, but in his ſhepheards ragges, yet his oft repaire made him not onely ſuſpected, but knowne to diuerſe of their neighbours: who for the good will they bare to old Porrus, told him ſecretly of the matter, wiſhing him to kæpe his daughter at home, leaſt ſhe went ſo oft to the field that ſhe brought him home a yong ſonne: for they feared that Fawnia being ſo beautifull, the young Prince would allure her to folly. Porrus was ſtriken into a dump at theſe newes, ſo that thanking his neighbours for their good will: he hyed him home to his wife, and calling her aſide, wringing his hands, and ſhedding forth teares, he brake the matter to her in theſe tearmes.

I Am afrayd wife, that my daughter Fawnia hath made her ſelfe ſo fine, that ſhe will buy repentance too deare. I beare newes,

neiues, which if they be true, some will wish they had not proued true. It is told me by my neighbours, that Doraſtus the Kings ſonne begins to loke at our daughter Fawnia: which if it be ſo, I will not giue her a halfepeny for her honeſtie at the yeares end. I tell thee wife, now adayes beautie is a great ſtale to trap yong men, and faire words and ſweete promiſes are two great enemies to maidens honeſtie: thou knoweſt where poore men intreate and cannot obtaine, there Princes may commaund, and will obtaine. Though Kings ſonnes daunce in nets, they may not be ſeene: but poore mens faults are eſpied at a little hole. Well: it is a hard caſe where Kings luſts are lawes, and that they ſhould find poore men to that, which they themſelues wilfully breake.

Peace husband (quoth his wife) take heede what you ſay: ſpeake no more then you ſhould, leaſt you heare what you would not. great ſtreames are to be ſtopped by ſleight, not by force: Princes to be perſwaded by ſubmiſſion, not by rigor: do what you can, but no more then you may, leaſt in ſauing Fawnias maidenhead, you loſe your owne head. Take heede I ſay, it is ill ieſting with edged toles, and bad ſporting with Kings. The Wolfe had his ſkinne pulled ouer his eares for but looking into the Lions den. Tuſh wife (quoth he) thou ſpeakeſt like a fole, if the King ſhould know that Doraſtus had begotten our daughter with child (as I feare it will fall out little better) the Kings furie would be ſuch as no doubt we ſhould both loſe our goods and liues: neceſſitie therefore hath no law, and I will preuent this miſchiefe with a newe deuiſe that is come in my head, which ſhall neuer offend the King, nor diſpleaſe Doraſtus. I meane to take the chaine and the iewels that I found with Fawnia, and carrie them to the King, letting him then to vnderſtand how ſhe is none of my daughter, but that I found her beate vp with the water alone in a little boat wrapped in a rich Mantle, wherein was incloſed this treaſure. By this meanes I hope the King will take Fawnia into his ſeruice, and we what ſoeuer chaunceth ſhal be blameleſſe. This deuice pleaſed the good wife very well, ſo that they determined aſſoone as they might know the King at leiſure, to make him priuie to this caſe. In the meane time

Doraſtus was not ſlacke in his affaires, but applied his matters with ſuch diligence, that he prouided all things fit for their iourney. Treaſure and iewels he had gotten great ſtore, thinking there was no better friend then money in a ſtrange countrey: rich attire he had prouided for Fawnia, and becauſe he could not bring the matter to paſſe without the helpe and aduiſe of ſome one, he made an old ſeruant of his called Capnio, who had ſerued him from his childhood, priuie to his affaires: who ſeeing no perſwaſions could preuaile to diuert him from his ſetled determination, gaue his conſent, and dealt ſo ſecretly in the cauſe, that within ſhort ſpace he had gotten a ſhip ready for their paſſage: the Mariners ſeeing a fit gale of winde for their purpoſe, wiſhed Capnio to make no delayes, leaſt if they pretermitted this good weather, they might ſtay long ere they had ſuch a faire wind. Capnio fearing that his negligence ſhould hinder the iourney, in the night time conueyed the trunkes full of treaſure into the ſhippe, and by ſecret meanes let Fawnia vnderſtand, that the next morning they meant to depart: ſhe vpon this newes ſlept verie little that night, but got her vp verie early, and went to her ſheepe, looking euery minute when ſhe ſhould ſee Doraſtus, who tarried not long, for feare delay might breede daunger, but came as faſt as he could gallop, and without any great circumſtance tooke Fawnia vp behinde him and rode to the hauen, where the ſhippe lay, which was not three quarters of a mile diſtant from that place. He no ſooner came there, but the Mariners were readie with their cockeboate to ſet them aboord, where being coucht together in a Cabben, they paſt away the time in recounting their old loues, til their man Capnio ſhould come. Porrus who had heard that this morning the King would go abroade to take the aire, called in haſt to his wife to bring him his holy-day hoſe and his beſt Jacket, that he might go like an honeſt ſubſtantiall man to tell his tale. His Wife a good cleanly wench, brought him all things fitte, and ſpunged him vp very handſomly, giuing him the chaine and the iewels in a litle boxe, which Porrus for the more ſafetie put in his boſome. Hauing thus all his trinkets in a readineſſe, taking his ſtaffe in his hand, he bad his wife kiſſe him for good luke, and ſo he

went

went towards the Pallace. But as he was going, fortune (who meant to shewe him a little false play) preuented his purpose in this wise.

He met by chaunce in his way Capnio, who trudging as fast as he could with a little coffer vnder his arme to the ship, and spying Porrus, whom he knew to be Fawnias Father, going towards the Pallace, being a wylie fellow, begã to doubt the worst, and therfore croſt him the way, and askt him whither he was going so early this morning.

Porrus (who knew by his face that he was one of ỹ Court) meaning simply, told him that the Kings son Doraſtus dealt harely with him: for he had but one Daughter who was a little Beautifull, and that his neighbours told him the young Prince had allured her to folly, he went therfore now to complaine to the King how greatly he was abuſed.

Capnio (who straight way smelt the whole matter) began to sooth him in his talke, and said, that Doraſtus dealt not like a Prince to spoyle any poore mans daughter in that sort: he therefore would do the best for him he could, because he knew he was an honest man. But (quoth Capnio), you loſe your labour in going to the Pallace, for the King meanes this day to take the aire of the sea, and to go aboard of a ship that lyes in the hauen, I am going before, you see, to prouide all things in a readinesse, and if you will follow my counsell, turne backe with me to the hauen, where I will set you in such a fit place as you may speake to the King at your pleasure. Porrus giuing credit to Capnios smooth tale, gaue him a thousand thãks for his friendly aduise, and went with him to the hauen, making all the way his complaints of Doraſtus, yet concealing secretly the chaine and the iewels. Alsone as they were come to the sea side, the marriners seeing Capnio, came a land with their cocke-boate, who still dissembling the matter, demanded of Porrus if he would go see the ship, who vnwilling and fearing the worst, because he was not wel acquainted with Capnio made his excuse that he could not brooke the Sea, therfore would not trouble him.

Capnio seeing that by faire meanes he could not get him aboard, commanded the mariners that by violence they should

carrie him into the shippe, wholike sturdie knaues hoisted the poore shepheard on their backs, and bearing him to the boate, lanched from the land.

Porrus seeing himselfe so cunningly betrayed durst not crie out, for he saw it would not preuaile, but began to intreate Capnio and the mariners to be good to him, and to pittie his estate, he was but a poore man that liued by his labour: they laughing to see the shepherd so afrayd, made as much haste as they could, and set him aboord. Porrus was no sooner in the ship but he sawe Dorastus walking with Fawnia, yet he scarse knew her: for she had attired her selfe in rich apparell, which, so increased her beautie, that she resembled rather an Angell then a creature.

Dorastus and Fawnia, were halfe astonished to see the olde shepheard, maruelling greatly what wind had brought him thither, til Capnio told them all the whole discourse: how Porrus was going to make his complaint to the King, if by pollicie he had not preuented him and therefore now sith he was aboord, for the auoiding of further danger, it were best to carrie him into Italie.

Dorastus praised greatly his mans deuise, and allowed of his counsaile: but Fawnia, (who still feared Porrus, as her father) began to blush for shame, that by her meanes he should either incurre danger or displeasure.

The old shepherd hearing this hard sentence, that he should on such a sodaine be caried from his wife, his countrey and kinsfolke, into a forraine land amongst straungers, began with bitter teares to make his complaint, and on his knees to intreate Dorastus, that pardoning his vnaduised folly, he would giue him leaue to go home: swearing that he would keepe all things as secret as they could wish. But these protestations could not preuaile, although Fawnia intreated Dorastus very earnestly, but the mariners hoisting their maine sailes wayed ankers, & hailed into the deepe, where we leaue them to the fauor of the wind and seas, & returne to Egistus.

VVho hauing appointed this day to hunt in one of his Forrests, called for his sonne Dorastus to go sport himselfe

himſelfe, becauſe he ſaw that of late he began to loure: but his men made anſwere that he was gone abroad none knew whither, except he were gone to the groue to walke all alone, as his cuſtome was to do euery day.

The king willing to waken him out of his dumpes, ſent one of his men to goe ſeeke him, but in vayne, for at laſt he returned, but finde him he could not, ſo that the king went himſelfe to goe ſee the ſport: where paſſing away the day, returning at night from hunting, he aſked for his ſonne, but he could not be heard of, which draue the king into a great choler: whereupō moſt of his noblemē and other courtiers, poſted abroad to ſeeke him, but they could not heare of him through all Sycilia, onely they miſſed Capnio his man which againe made the king ſuſpect that he was not gone farre.

Two or three dayes being paſſed, and no newes heard of Doraſtus, Egiſtus began to feare that he was deuoured with ſome wild beaſts, and vpon that made out a great troupe of men to goe ſeeke him: who coaſted through all the Countrey and ſearched in euery daungerous and ſecret place, vntill at laſt they met with a Fiſherman that was ſitting in a little couert hard by the ſea ſide mending his nettes, when Doraſtus and Fawnia tooke ſhipping: who being examined if he either knew or heard where the kings ſonne was, without any ſecrecie at all reuealed the whole matter, how he was ſayled two dayes paſt, and had in his company his mā Capnio, Porrus, and his faire daughter Fawnia. This heauie newes was preſently carried to the king, who ſtarke dead for ſorrow, commaunded Porrus wife to be ſent for: ſhe being come to the Pallace, after due examinatiō, confeſſed that her neighbours had oft told her that the Kings Sonne was too familiar with Fawnia her Daughter: whereupon, her husband fearing the worſt, about two dayes paſt (hearing the King ſhould goe a hunting) roſe earely in the morning and went to make his complaint, but ſince ſhe neither heard of him, nor ſaw him. Egiſtus perceiuing the womans vnfayned ſimplicitie, let her depart without incurring further diſpleaſure, concealing ſuch ſecret griefe for his Sonnes reckleſſe follie, that he had ſo forgotten his honour and parentage, by ſo baſe a choiſe to diſho-

nor his father, and discredit himselfe, that with very care and thought he fell into a quartan feuer, which was so vnfit for his aged yeares and complexion, that he became so weake, as the Phisions would graunt him no life.

But his sonne Dorastus little regarded either father, coũtry: or kingdome, in respect of his Lady Fawnia. for fortune smyling on this young nouice, let him so luckie a gale of wind, for the space of a day and a night, that the Mariners lay and slept vpon the hatches: but on the next morning about the breake of the day, the aire begã to ouercast, the winds to rise, the seas to swell, yea presently there arose such a fearefull tẽpest, as the ship was in dãger to be swallowed vp with euery sea, the maine mast with the violence of the wind was thrown ouer bord, the sayles were torne, the tackling went in sunder, the storme raging still so furiously that poore Fawnia was almost dead for feare, but that she was greatly cõforted with the presence of Dorastus. The tempest continued three dayes, all which time the Mariners euery minute loked for death, & the aire was so darkned with cloudes that the Maister could not tell by his compasse in what coast they were. But vpon the fourth day about ten of ỹ clocke, the wind began to cease: the sea to wax calme, and the sky to be cleare, and the Mariners descryed the coast of Bohemia, shooting of their ordinance for ioy that they had escaped such a fearefull tempest.

Dorastus hearing that they were arriued at some harbour, sweetly kissed Fawnia, and bad her be of good cheare: when they told him that the Port belonged vnto the chief Citie of Bohemia where Pandosto kept his Court, Dorastus began to be sad: knowing that his Father hated no man so much as Pandosto, and that the king himselfe had sought secretly to betray Egistus: this considered, he was halfe afrayd to go on land, but that Capnio counselled him to chaunge his name and his country, vntill such time as they could get some other Barke to transport them into Italy. Dorastus liking this deuise made his case priuie to the Mariners, rewarding them bountifully for their paynes, and charging them to say that he was a Gentleman of Trapalonia called Meleagrus. The shipmen willing to shew what friendship they could to Dorastus,

ſtus, promiſed to be as ſecret as they could, or he might wish, and vpon this they landed in a little Village a mile diſtant from the Citie, where after they had reſted a day, thinking to make prouiſion for their mariage: the fame of Fawnias beauty, was ſpread throughout all the Citie, ſo that it came to the eare of Pandoſto: who then being about the age of fifty, had notwithſtanding young and freſh affections: ſo that he deſired greatly to ſée Fawnia, and to bring this matter the better to paſſe, hearing they had but one man, and how they reſted at a very homely houſe: he cauſed them to be apprehẽded as ſpyes, and ſent a dozen of his guarde to take them: who bẽing come to their lodging, told them the kings meſſage: Doraſtus no whit diſmayed, accompanied with Fawnia and Capnio, went to the court (for they left Porrus to kéepe the ſtuffe) who being admitted to the kings preſence. Doraſtus and Fawnia with humble obeyſance ſaluted his Maieſtie.

Pandoſto amaſed at the ſingular perfection of Fawnia, ſtood half aſtoniſhed, viewing her beauty, ſo that he had almoſt forgot himſelfe what he had to doe: at laſt with ſtearne countenance he demaunded their names, and of what country they were, and what cauſed them to land in Bohemia. Sir (quoth Doraſtus) know that my name Meleagrus is a knight borne and brought vp in Trapalonia, and this Gentlewomã, whom I meane to take to my wife is an Italian borne in Padua, frõ whence I haue now brought her. The cauſe I haue ſo ſmall a trayne with me, is for that her friends vnwilling to cõſent, I intended ſecretly to conuey her into Trapalonia: whither as I was ſayling, by diſtreſſe of weather I was driuen into theſe coaſts: thus haue you heard my name, my country, and the cauſe of my voyage. Pãdoſto ſtarting from his ſeat as one in choller, made this rough reply.

Meleagrus, I feare this ſmoth tale hath but ſmall trueth, and that thou couereſt a foule ſkin with faire paintings. No doubt this Ladie by her grace, and beautie is of hyer degrée more meete for a mighty Prince, thẽ for a ſimple knight, and thou like a periured traitor haſt bereft her of her parents, to their preſent griefe, and her inſuing ſorrow. Till therefore I heare more of her parẽtage and of thy calling, I will ſtay you

both here in Bohemia.

Dorastus, in whom rested nothing but kingly valour, was not able to suffer the reproches of Pandosto, but that he made him this answere.

IT is not meete for a king, without due proofe to appeach any mã of ill behauiour, nor vpon suspitiõ to inferre beleefe: straungers ought to be entertained with curtesie: not to be intreated with crueltie, least being forced by want to put vp iniuries: the Gods reuenge their cause with rigour.

Pandosto hearing Dorastus vtter these woordes, commanded that he should straight be committed to prison, vntill such time as they heard further of his pleasure, but as for Fawnia, he charged that she should be entertained in the Court, with such curtesie as belonged to a straunger and her calling. The rest of the shipmen he put into the Dungeon.

Hauing thus hardly handled the supposed Trapalonians: Pandosto contrarie to his aged yeares began to be somewhat tickled with the beautie of Fawnia, in so much that he could take no rest, but cast in his old head a thousand new deuises: at last he fell into these thoughts.

HOw art thou pestred Pandosto with fresh affections, and vnfit fancies, wishing to possesse with an vnwilling mynde, and a hot desire troubled with a could disdaine? Shall thy mynde yéeld in age to that thou hast resisted in youth? Peace Pandosto, blabbe not out that which thou mayest be ashamed to reueale to thy selfe. Ah Fawnia is beautifull, and it is for thine honour (fond foole) to name her that is thy Captiue, and an other mans Concubine. Alas, I reach at that with my hand which my heart would faine refuse: playing like the bird Ibys in Egypt, which hateth Serpents, yet feedeth on their egges.

Tush hoat desires turne oftentimes to cold disdaine: Loue is brittle, where appetite, not reason beares the sway: Kings thoughtes ought not to climbe so high as the heauens, but to looke no lower then honour: better it is to pecke at the starres with the young Eagles, then to pray on dead carkasses with

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the Vulture: tis more honorable for Pandoſto to dye by concealing Loue, then to enioy ſuch vnfit Loue. Doth Pandoſto then loue? Yea: whom? A mayde vnknowne, yea and perhappes, immodeſt, ſtragled out of her owne country: beautifull, but not therefore chaſt: comely in body, but perhappes crooked in mynde. Ceaſe then Pandoſto to looke at Fawnia, much leſſe to loue her: be not ouertaken with a womans beautie, whoſe eyes are framed by arte to inamour, whoſe heart is framed by nature to inchaunt, whoſe falſe teares know their true tymes, and whoſe ſweete wordes pearce deeper then ſharpe ſwordes. Here Pandoſto ceaſed from his talke, but not from his loue: for although he ſought by reaſon, and wiſedom to ſuppreſſe this franticke affection: yet he could take no reſt, the beautie of Fawnia had made ſuch a deepe impreſſion in his heart. But on a day walking abroad into a Parke which was hard adioyning to his houſe, he ſent by one of his ſeruants for Fawnia, vnto whom he vttered theſe wordes.

FAwnia, I commend thy beautie and wit, and now pitie thy diſtreſſe and want: but if thou wilt forſake Sir Meleagrus, whoſe pouertie, though a Knight, is not able to maintaine an eſtate aunſwerable to thy beauty, and yelo thy conſent to Pandoſto: I will both increaſe thee with dignities and riches. No ſir, aunſwered Fawnia: Meleagrus is a knight that hath wonne me by loue, and none but he ſhall weare me: his ſiniſter miſchance ſhall not diminiſh my affection, but rather increaſe my good will: thinke not though your Grace hath imprioned him without cauſe, that feare ſhall make me yeeld my conſent: I had rather be Meleagrus wife, and a begger, then liue in plentie, and be Pandoſtos Concubine. Pandoſto hearing the aſſured aunſwere of Fawnia, would, notwithſtãding, proſecute his ſuite to the vttermoſt: ſeeking with faire wordes and great promiſes to ſcale the fort of her chaſtitie, ſwearing that if ſhe would graunt to his deſire, Meleagrus ſhould not onely be ſet at libertie, but honored in his Court amongſt his Nobles: but theſe alluring baytes could not intiſe her mynde from the loue of her new betrothed mate Meleagrus: which Pandoſto ſeeing, he left her alone for that time to

conſider more of the demaund. Fawnia being alone by her ſelfe, began to enter into theſe ſolitarie meditations.

Ah infortunate Fawnia, thou ſeeſt to deſire aboue fortune, is to ſtriue againſt the Gods, and fortune. Who gazeth at the ſunne weakeneth his ſight: they which ſtare at the ſky, fall oft into deepe pits: haddeſt thou reſted content to haue bene a ſhepheard, thou needeſt not to haue feared miſchaunce: better had it bene for thee, by ſitting low, to haue had quiet, then by climing high to haue fallen into miſerie. But alas I feare not myne owne daunger, but Doraſtus diſpleaſure. Ah ſweete Doraſtus, thou art a Prince, but now a priſoner, by too much loue, procuring thine owne loſſe: haddeſt thou not loued Fawnia thou haddeſt bin fortunate, ſhall I thē be falſe to him that hath forſaken kingdomes for my cauſe: no, would my death might deliuer him, ſo mine honor might be preſerued. With that fetching a deepe ſigh, ſhe ceaſed from her complaints, and wēt againe to the Palace, inioying a libertie without cōtent, and profered pleaſure with ſmall ioy. But poore Doraſtus lay all this while in cloſe priſon, being pinched with a hard reſtraint, and pained with the burden of cold, and heauie irons, ſorrowing ſometimes that his fond affection had procured him this miſhap, that by the diſobedience of his parents, he had wrought his owne deſpight: an other while curſing the Gods and fortune, that they ſhould croſſe him with ſuch ſiniſter chaunce: vttering at laſt his paſſions in theſe wordes.

Ah vnfortunate wretch borne to miſhappe, now thy follie hath his deſert: art thou not worthy for thy baſe minde to haue bad fortune: could the deſtinies fauour thee, which haſt forgot thine honor and dignities: will not the Gods plague him with deſpight that payneth his father with diſobedience. Oh Gods, if any fauour or iuſtice be left, plague me, but fauour poore Fawnia and ſhrowd her from the tyrannies of wretched Pandoſto, but let my death free her from miſhap, & then welcome death: Doraſtus payned with theſe heauie paſſions, ſorrowed and ſighed but in vayne, for which he vſed the more patience. But agayne to Pandoſto, who broyling at the heat of vnlaw, full luſt could take no reſt but ſtill felt his minde diſquieted

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with his new loue, ſo that his nobles and ſubiectes marueſled greatly at this ſodaine alteratiõ, not being able to coniecture the cauſe of this his continued care: Pandoſto thinking euery houre a yeare till he had talked once againe with Fawnia, ſent for her ſecretly into his chamber, whither though Fawnia vnwillingly comming, Pandoſto entertained her very curteouſly vſing theſe familiar ſpeaches, which Fawnia anſwered as ſhortly in this wiſe.

Pandoſto.

Fawnia are you become leſſe wilfull and more wiſe, to preferre the loue of a king before the liking of a poore knight: I thinke ere this you thinke it is better to be fauoured of a king then of a ſubiect.

Fawnia.

Pandoſto, the body is ſubiect to victories, but the minde not to be ſubdued by cõqueſt, honeſty is to be preferred before honour, and a dramme of faith weigheth downe a tunne of gold. I haue promiſed Meleagrus to loue, and will performe no leſſe.

Pandoſto.

Fawnia, I know thou art not ſo vnwiſe in thy choice, as to refuſe the offer of a king, nor ſo ingrateful as to deſpiſe a good turne: thou art now in that place where I may commaunde, and yet thou ſeeſt I intreate, my power is ſuch as I may compell by force, and yet I ſue by prayers: Yeeld Fawnia thy loue to him which burneth in thy loue, Meleagrus ſhall be ſet free, thy countrymen diſcharged: and thou both loued and honoured.

Fawnia.

I ſee Pandoſto, where luſt ruleth it is a miſerable thing to be a virgin, but know this, that I wil alwayes preferre fame before life, and rather chooſe death then diſhonour.

Pandoſto ſeeing that there was in Fawnia a determinate courage to loue Meleagrus, and a reſolution without feare to hate him flong away from her in a rage: ſwearing if in ſhort time ſhe would not be wonne with reaſon: he would forget al curteſie, and compell her to graũt by rigour: but theſe threatning wordes no whit diſmayed Fawnia: but that ſhe ſtill both

deſpighted and deſpiſed Pandoſto. While thus theſe two louers ſtroue, the one to winne loue the other to liue in hate: Egiſtus heard certaine newes by Marchauntes of Bohemia, that his ſonne Doraſtus was impriſoned by Pandoſto, which made him feare greatly that his ſonne ſhould be but hardly intreated: yet cõſidering that Bellaria and he was cleared by the Oracle of Apollo from that crime wherewith Pandoſto had vniuſtly charged them, he thought beſt to ſend with all ſpæde to Pandoſto, that he ſhould ſet frée his ſonne Doraſtus, and put to death Fawnia and her father Porrus: finding this by the aduiſe of Counſaile the ſpædieſt remedy to releaſe his ſonne, he cauſed preſently two of his ſhippes to be rigged and throughly furniſhed with prouiſion of men and victuals, and ſent diuers of his Nobles, Embaſſadours into Bohemia: who willing to obey their King, and receiue their young Prince: made no delayes, for feare of danger, but with as much ſpæde as might be, ſayled towardes Bohemia: the wind and ſeas fauored them greatly, which made them hope of ſome good hap, for within thrée dayes they were landed: which Pandoſto no ſoner heard of their arriuall, but he in perſon went to méete them, intreating them with ſuch ſumptuous & familiar curteſie, that they might well perceiue how ſory he was for the former iniuries he had offered to their King, and how willing (if it might be) to make amendes. As Pandoſto made report to them, how one Meleagrus a Knight of Trapolonia was lately arriued with a Lady called Fawnia in his land, cõming very ſuſpitiouſly, accompanied onely with one ſeruant, and an old ſhepheard. The Embaſſadours perceiued by the halfe, what the whole tale ment, and began to coniecture, that it was Doraſtus, who for feare to be knowne, had chaunged his name: but diſſembling the matter, they ſhortly arriued at the Court, where after they had bin very ſolemnly & ſumptuouſly feaſted, the noble mẽ of Sycilia being gathered togither, they made report of their Embaſſage: where they certified Pandoſto that Meleagrus was ſonne and heyre to the King Egiſtus, and that his name was Doraſtus: how contrarie to the kings minde he had priuily conuayed away that Fawnia, intending to marry her, being but daughter to that poore shep-

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heard Porrus: whereupon the Kings requeſt was, that Capnio, Fawnia, and Porrus might be murthered and put to death, and that his ſonne Doraſtus might be ſent home in ſafetie. Pandoſto hauing attentiuely and with great maruell heard their Embaſſage, willing to reconcile him ſelfe to Egiſtus, and to ſhew him how greatly he eſtæmed his labor: although loue and fancy forbad him to hurt Fawnia, yet in deſpite of loue he determined to execute Egiſtus will without mercy, & therfore he preſently ſent for Doraſtus out of priſon, who maruelling at his vnlooked for curteſie, found at his comming to the kings preſence, that which he leaſt doubted of, his fathers Embaſſadours: who no ſoner ſaw him, but with great reuerence they honored him: and Pandoſto embracing Doraſtus, ſet him by him very louingly in a chaire of eſtate. Doraſtus aſhamed that his folly was bewrayed, ſate a long time as one in a muſe, til Pandoſto told him the ſumme of his fathers embaſſage, which he had no ſoner heard, but he was toucht at the quicke, for the cruell ſentence that was pronounced againſt Fawnia: but neither could his ſorrow nor perſwaſions preuaile, for Pandoſto commaunded that Fawnia, Porrus, and Capnio, ſhould be brought to his preſence: who were no ſoner come, but Pandoſto hauing his former loue turned to a diſdainful hate, began to rage againſt Fawnia in theſe tearmes.

THou diſdainfull vaſſall, thou curriſh kite, aſſigned by the deſtinies to baſe fortune, and yet with an aſpiring mind gazing after honor: how durſt thou preſume, being a begger, to match with a Prince? By thy alluring lookes to inchant the ſonne of a king, to leaue his owne countrey to fulfil thy diſordinate luſts. O deſpitefull mynd, a proud heart in a beggar is not vnlike to a great fire in a ſmal cottage, which warmeth not the houſe, but burneth it: aſſure thy ſelf thou ſhalt die, and thou old doating fole, whoſe folly hath bene ſuch, as to ſuffer thy daughter to reach aboue thy fortune: looke for no other mæde, but the like puniſhment. But Capnio, thou which haſt betrayed the king, and haſt conſented to the vnlawfull luſt of thy Lord and maiſter, I know not how iuſtly I may plague thee: death is to eaſie a puniſhment for thy falſhood, and to

liue (if not in extreme miſerie) were not to ſhew thée equitie. Therfore award that thou ſhalt haue thine eyes put out, and continually till thou dieſt, grind in a mill like a brute beaſt. The feare of death brought a ſorrowfull ſilence vpon Fawnia and Capnio, but Porrus ſéeing no hope of life, burſt forth into theſe ſpéeches.

PAndoſto, and ye noble Embaſſadours of Sycilia, ſéeing without cauſe I am condemned to die: I am yet glad I haue opportunitie to diſburden my conſcience before my death: I will tell you as much as I know, and yet no more then is true: whereas I am accuſed that I haue bene a ſupporter of Fawnias pride, and ſhe diſdained as a vile begger, ſo it is, that I am neither father vnto her, nor ſhe daughter vnto me.

For ſo it happened that I being a poore ſhepherd in Sicilia, liuing by kéeping other mens flocks: one of my ſhéep ſtraying downe to the ſea ſide, as I went to ſéeke her, I ſaw a little boate driuen vpon the ſhore, wherein I found a babe of fiue dayes old, wrapped in a mantle of ſcarlet, hauing about the necke this chaine: I pitying the child, and deſirous of the treaſure, carried it home to my wife, who with great care nurſed it vp, and ſet it to kéepe ſhéepe. Here is the chaine & the iewels, and this Fawnia is the child whom I found in the boate, what ſhe is, or of what parentage I know not, but this I am aſſured that ſhe is none of mine.

Pandoſto would ſcarſe ſuffer him to tell out his tale, but that he enquired the time of the yeare, the maner of the boate, and other circumſtances, which when he found agréeing to his count, he ſuddenly leapt from his ſeate, and kiſſed Fawnia, wetting her tender cheeks with his tears, & crying my daughter Fawnia, ah ſweete Fawnia, I am thy father, Fawnia. This ſodaine paſſion of the King draue them all into a maze, eſpecially Fawnia and Doraſtus. But when the king had breathed him ſelfe a while in this new ioy, he rehearſed before the Embaſſadours the whole matter, how he had intreated his wife Bellaria for iealouſie, and that this was the child whom he ſent to floate in the ſeas.

Fawnia was not more ioyfull that ſhe had found ſuch a father,

ther, then Doraſtus was glad he ſhould get ſuch a wife. The Embaſſadours reioyced that their yong Prince had made ſuch a choice, that thoſe Kingdoms which through enmitie had long time bene diſſeuered, ſhould now through perpetuall amitie be united and reconciled. The Citizens and ſubiects of Bohemia (hearing that the King had found againe his daughter, which was ſuppoſed dead, ioyfull that there was an heire aparant to their kingdome) made bonfires and ſhowes throughout the Citie: The Courtiers and Knights appointed Juſtes and Turneyes, to ſignifie their willing minds in gratifying the Kings hap.

Eightéene dayes being paſt in theſe princely ſports, Pandoſto willing to recompence old Porrus, of a ſhepheard made him a Knight: which done, prouiding a ſufficient Nauie to receiue him and his retinue, accompanied with Doraſtus, Fawnia, and the Sicilian Embaſſadours, he ſailed towards Sicilia, where he was moſt princely entertained by Egiſtus: who hearing this comicall euent, reioyced greatly at his ſonnes good hap, and without delay (to the perpetuall ioy of the two yong louers) celebrated the marriage: which was no ſoner ended, but Pandoſto (calling to mind how firſt he betrayed his friend Egiſtus, how his iealouſie was the cauſe of Bellarias death, that contrarie to the lawe of nature he had luſted after his owne daughter) moued with theſe deſperat thoughts, he fell in a melancholie fit, and to cloſe vp the Comedie with a Tragicall ſtratageme, he ſlue him ſelfe, whoſe death being many dayes bewailed of Fawnia, Doraſtus, and his déere friend Egiſtus, Doraſtus taking his leaue of his father, went with his wife and the dead corps into Bohemia, where after they were ſumptuouſly intombed, Doraſtus ended his dayes in contented quiet.

FINIS.

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Greene, R.